

THE TIMES GREAT SUMMER OF SPORT

A STAR IS BORN

The girl with the golden ankle, PAGE 42
PLUS: England face an unpredictable Test, PAGE 38

BEST FOR BOOKS

Jonathan Meades on Leni Riefenstahl
PLUS: Enoch Powell; Fleur Cowles; Jostein Gaarder's new novel, PAGES 34, 35

BLOW HARD WITH A VENGEANCE

Twister leaves out the human interest
PAGE 31

WANTED

IT Director... 80K
Director... 70K
Controller... 70K
Manager... 45K

TOP JOBS SECTION 3

Smoking parents are blamed for two thirds of cot deaths

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

PARENTS who smoke could be responsible for up to two-thirds of cot deaths, researchers have found.

A study at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Bristol, which has produced the first evidence of the scale of the danger to babies, shows a baby's risk of cot death doubles for each hour a day it spends in a room where people smoke. The findings, to be published in the

British Medical Journal on Saturday, are the first to show that exposing a baby to tobacco smoke after birth is as dangerous as smoking by the mother in pregnancy. They say cot deaths could be reduced by almost two thirds, saving the lives of 300 infants a year, if parents stopped smoking.

Peter Fleming, professor of infant health and developmental physiology at the hospital and author of the study, said: "We were astonished by the strength of the association. The message is that it is

as anti-social to smoke in a room where there are pregnant women and babies as it is to drink and drive."

Professor Fleming and colleagues studied 195 cases of cot death over two years and compared them with 780 similar babies who survived. The results showed that babies in non-smoking households had a 61 per cent reduced risk of cot death.

"Having a Dad or anyone else in the household who smokes is almost as big a risk as having a mother who smokes,"

Professor Fleming added. The findings have prompted health officials to draw up new advice on ways of reducing the risk. Since a 1991 campaign by the Department of Health and the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths, the number of infants dying in sudden unexplained circumstances has fallen by half from more than 1,000 to 531 in 1994.

Parents have been advised to lay babies on their backs to sleep with their feet touching the end of the cot, not to smoke and to ensure infants are not

wearing too many clothes or covered by too many blankets. However, for the past two years the number of deaths has remained constant at ten a week, with babies aged two to three months at greatest risk.

Today, the health department and the foundation will publish a revised leaflet highlighting the importance of a smoke-free zone, particularly in the baby's sleeping place.

It will come on the same day as the 1994 annual report of Confidential Inquiry

into Stillbirths and Deaths in Infancy is published, showing current advice is broadly correct, but not being acted upon by those most at risk.

Joyce Epstein, secretary-general of the foundation, said the new leaflet built on the strengths of original campaigns. "We are pleased to be launching it on the same day as these important new findings. Parents must have clear advice led by research and this leaflet is based on the latest and most comprehensive cot death research in the country."

Blair rallies his MPs to save Harman

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND JILL SHERMAN

HARRIET HARMAN was re-elected to the Shadow Cabinet last night in a vote that underlined Tony Blair's unshakeable grip on his party.

The Shadow Health Secretary, under fire for months over her decision to send her son to a grammar school, improved her vote from last year, but finished bottom of the list of those elected to the 19-strong body.

In another fillip for Mr Blair, Jack Cunningham—his clear choice to fill the one vacancy in the Shadow Cabinet left by a retiring member—was easily elected with 190 votes. Ms Harman polled 145 votes to finish 19th; last year she came 18th with 108 votes.

While many MPs have not forgiven Ms Harman for going against party policy over her son's education, they voted for her reluctantly because they were left in no doubt that Mr Blair wanted her to remain in his top team.

The result was yet another example of the leader's total sway over his party on a day when he moved to enforce discipline among his MPs, and Mr Blair declared it a "vote for unity, a vote for a winning team that will lead the fight against the Tories at the next election".

Nevertheless, the vote took place under the shadow of allegations of vote-rigging and several promising front-benchers were dissuaded from standing to limit the chances of surprises. Gerald Kaufman, who was elected 12 times and topped the poll on four

occasions, accused Mr Blair of turning the poll into a farce and said that this year's election should be the last. Writing in *The Times*, he said that Labour leaders should be allowed to appoint their own team. "It is time this comedy was ended."

Mr Blair had earlier turned on those who suggested the elections had been rigged when he used his end-of-term address to the Parliamentary Labour Party to tell MPs that there was no room for "individual self-indulgence" in the run-up to the general election.

He also warned MPs against writing newspaper articles critical of the leadership or party policies, saying: "Self-indulgence will mean internal division and confusion among both our party members and the electorate. It is unity and single-mindedness which we must adopt between now and the election."

But almost immediately, the tensions within the leadership were exposed when Clare Short walked out of a television interview after being asked about the Tube strike.

The Shadow Transport Secretary told the interviewer from BBC's regional news programme *Newsroom South East*: "I don't wish to talk about it, thank you" before unhooking her microphone and refusing to continue.

Ms Short, who had appeared to answer questions about the Commons debate on the Central Railway line, claimed that the dispute had not been part of the agreement

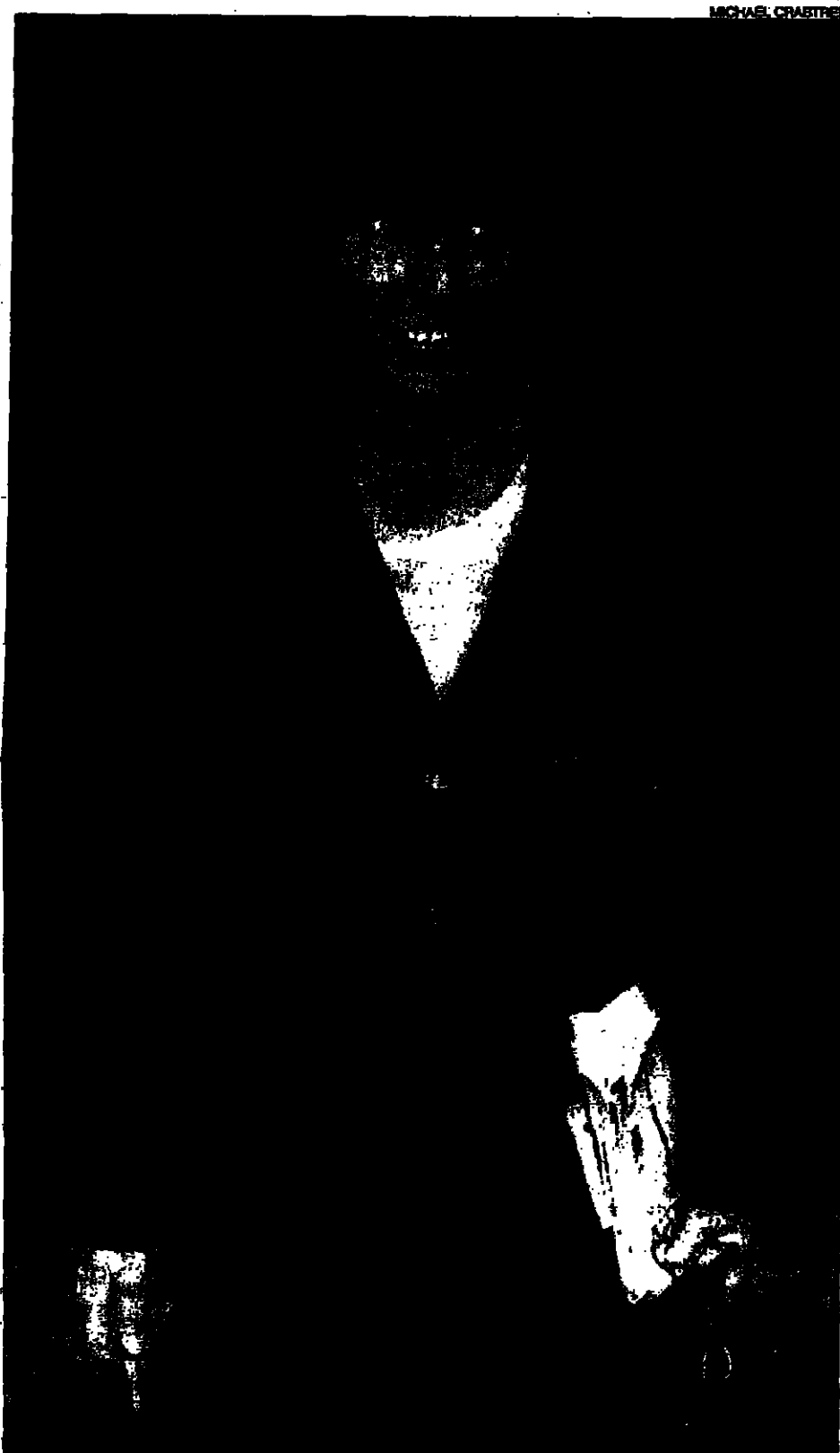
under which she took part in the interview. But the incident prompted to break her silence on the strike with a statement backing the Shadow Cabinet line of calling for binding arbitration.

She said: "I believe that the Tube strike is regrettable and that no one wants a strike. I hope the matter is resolved as soon as possible. David Blunkett has made the position clear on behalf of the Shadow Cabinet and I stand by that. We are in favour of arbitration. We are in favour of that arbitration being binding and we think it is inappropriate for the dispute to continue in the light of that proposal."

Ms Short had said nothing about the Tube strike since Mr Blunkett, the Shadow Education and Employment Secretary, described the strike as "inappropriate" and called for arbitration. In common with others in the leadership—including Robin Cook and John Prescott—Ms Short was unhappy about the line taken by Mr Blunkett, who spoke with Mr Blair's authority.

Ms Short has previously run into trouble by saying that Labour should consider legalising cannabis and over her less than generous support for Ms Harman over the grammar school controversy. She also embarrassed Mr Blair over her suggestion that those on an MP's salary of £34,000 should be prepared to pay more tax.

Gerald Kaufman, page 16



Harriet Harman yesterday: she was 19th in the Shadow Cabinet election

Catholic paper launches attack on the Queen

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

ONE of Britain's leading Roman Catholic newspapers tomorrow publishes a strong attack on the monarchy, singling out the Queen for particular criticism.

William Oddie, a former Anglican priest who converted to Catholicism, writing in tomorrow's *Catholic Herald*, questions whether Catholic loyalty can be sustained "in present conditions". He says the Queen has openly abandoned the belief that marriage is indissoluble by enforcing the divorce of the Prince and Princess of Wales.

In so doing, he says, she has endangered traditional family life "at precisely the juncture at which it stands in most peril". Referring to the Queen's refusal to accept the marriage of her sister to a divorced man, he says: "Unlike Princess Margaret four decades ago, she is no longer mindful of the teachings of the Church."

Lord St John of Fawsley, Master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, dismissed Mr Oddie's comments as "a ridiculous farrago of nonsense".

He said: "Speaking as a Catholic and from personal experience, I can say that Her Majesty has the greatest respect and admiration for her Catholic subjects and throughout this wretched business of

the divorce of the Prince and Princess of Wales she has behaved impeccably and upheld the basic Christian values of family life, charity and forgiveness. We owe the Queen many things but most of all we are indebted to her for keeping the throne stable during the most difficult period of the modern monarchy has had to go through."

Mr Oddie, who since his conversion has allied himself closely with the conservative wing of the Catholic church and as such has established himself as an authoritative commentator, is known for his extreme views. In choosing to publish these views, however, the *Herald* brings into the open for the first time what many Catholics have been saying privately. Harry Coen, the acting editor, last night defended Mr Oddie and called for disestablishment of the Church of England, of which the Queen is Supreme Governor.

"Once upon a time the Queen was the sole rock we could trust, while all about her everything was crumbling," Mr Coen said. "Now she has made a ghastly mistake which many Catholics believe strikes at the heart of marriage."

In his column, Mr Oddie states that Catholics here

Continued on page 2, col 5

Why I won't bow to the Right on EMU — Major

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Prime Minister last night demolished the remaining hopes of the Tory Right that he will shift his stance on the European single currency, saying that to rule out British participation now would be a dereliction of responsibility.

In an interview with *The Times*, John Major brushed aside David Heathcoat-Amory's resignation on the issue, reiterated his tax-cutting ambitions and repeatedly voiced confidence that he would recover from his lowly position in the opinion polls to win the next general election.

Tony Blair would not become Prime Minister, he said; Labour was very nervous and panicked when anything went wrong. "They panic in spasms, and between now and the next election a lot of things are going to go wrong for them. They are certainly going wrong for them on education, on strikes and on Europe."

But when it came to his own

party's problems over Europe, Mr Major was in no mood to budge. He said that Mr Heathcoat-Amory, who resigned as Paymaster-General so that he could publish a pamphlet on the single currency, would restate the arguments—but they would not be fresh arguments. The position was clear and it was not going to change.

Whether Britain went in or not, it was the most important economic decision that Europe and this country would take for many years. "Since it is going to affect this country I want to be in there negotiating precisely what happens up until the last moment."

"How could I defend to the City of London, British business, British industry—quite apart from the British individual—that I was going to say, on the most important economic issue for 50 years or more, I am going to withdraw from the debate now and let

the Europeans on their own, with no British input, decide what is going to happen even though it is going to affect us? It would be a dereliction of responsibility for us to opt out now of this debate."

"We have an absolute right to say no, and if it isn't in our national interest we will say no. But to say now 'You Europeans get on with it, you enjoy yourself, you make up your mind about what is right and we Brits will just sit on the side letting you make up your mind with no input from us'... I don't think it is credible."

Mr Major went on to make plain that a key theme of the Tories' election strategy would be that the Government, in spite of all its difficulties, had made life in Britain better.

Rejecting calls for a "big idea", he said that people's lives were affected by a mix-

Continued on page 2, col 4

Hill 'to be sacked by Williams team'

By OLIVER HOIT

DAMON HILL may be about to follow in the footsteps of Nigel Mansell by bringing the Formula One world drivers' championship to Britain and by being discarded by his employer, Frank Williams.

Yesterday, the rumours intensified when it was reported that the "Englishman", who leads the championship by 15 points, will be replaced next season by Heinz-Harald Frentzen, a German driver who has never finished higher than third in 42 starts.

Hill's performances in this year's Williams Renault, in which he has won six of the ten races so far, have been so commanding that the whippers about Williams searching for a replacement were stilled for a while. Hill felt confident enough to talk about a salary demand of £12 million for next year after his contract with Williams expires.

But a source "close to the Williams team" says in today's *Autosport*, said that the deal with Frentzen was struck within the last month. "I think it is wrong that a guy like Hill goes in there and gives his all and then his career and his emotions are treated in this way."

Williams denied there was any truth in the reports and Michael Breen, Hill's manager, poured scorn on the story.

Williams denied there was any truth in the reports and Michael Breen, Hill's manager, poured scorn on the story.

Williams denied there was any truth in the reports and Michael Breen, Hill's manager, poured scorn on the story.

Williams denied there was any truth in the reports and Michael Breen, Hill's manager, poured scorn on the story.

Williams denied there was any truth in the reports and Michael Breen, Hill's manager, poured scorn on the story.

Williams denied there was any truth in the reports and Michael Breen, Hill's manager, poured scorn on the story.



Buying The Times overseas
Australia \$24.00, Belgium 325, Canada \$24.00, Denmark 325, France 325, Germany 325, Greece 325, Hong Kong 325, India 325, Italy 325, Japan 325, Korea 325, Malaysia 325, Mexico 325, New Zealand 325, Norway 325, Portugal 325, Singapore 325, South Africa 325, Spain 325, Sweden 325, Switzerland 325, Taiwan 325, Thailand 325, USA \$24.00



TV & RADIO 42, 43
WEATHER 22
CROSSWORDS 22, 44

LETTERS 17
OBITUARIES 19
WILLIAM REES-MOGG 16

ARTS 31, 32
CHESS 39
COURT & CRIME 18

SPORT 36-42, 44
BODY AND MIND 14
TRAVEL NEWS 20, 21

The flexible mortgage that acts like a deposit and personal loan facility, for directors and the self employed — all at mortgage rate!

The MONEYSENSE MORTGAGE ACCOUNT™ is a revolutionary concept in comprehensive mortgage and personal finance management. It positively encourages mortgage repayment, makes further borrowing simpler and cheaper and makes excellent use of spare funds paid into the account (with a guarantee of return of those funds at any time).

In most cases, details of income will not be required when applying for a MONEYSENSE MORTGAGE ACCOUNT™.

The scheme is available for purchases and re-mortgages and for any legal capital-raising purpose. Your home is at risk if you do not keep up repayments on a mortgage or other loan secured on it. Suitable security and adequate life cover may be required by the lender. Full written quotation and brochure on request.

Contact the Mortgage Desk at Freedman & Co. Tel: 01727 836511 (24 Hours) Fax: 01727 840976

(Over Freedman represents only the Allied Dunbar Marketing Group, which is regulated by the Financial Services Authority in relation to life insurance, pensions and investment plans bearing Allied Dunbar's name. Over Freedman is a licensed credit broker.)

For the life you don't yet know
ALLIED DUNBAR

Inquiry launched into RUC tactics during riots

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY
AND AUDREY MAGEE

AN INQUIRY into police use of plastic bullets in Northern Ireland is to be launched in the wake of violent clashes during recent loyalist marches. Police training and their handling of street violence will be examined in a wide-ranging review.

About 6,000 plastic baton rounds were fired during troubles across the Province but Sir Hugh Annesley, the RUC Chief Constable, has defended the action of his officers in the face of petrol bomb attacks and assaults.

The Inspector of Constabulary will

publish a report into RUC standards later this year. Although ministers said the review is in response to earlier pressure for an investigation of police practice, they acknowledge that the latest violence has emphasised the need for a comprehensive examination of the police role.

The announcement came as Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, gave details of a review of marches and parades in Northern Ireland. The roles of the Chief Constable and ministers will be examined and public order laws could be changed if the review finds weaknesses in the system. Sir Patrick

has yet to announce the names of those on the inquiry, which is expected to be completed by January.

Ministers hope the announcement of the reviews and a speeding up of the Northern Ireland talks will help ease tensions in the run-up to next month's marching season. However, David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionists, says in *The Times* today that the peace process was killed off by IRA bombings and that fringe parties should be sidelined. "Confidence and stability can be restored," he says. "While the peace process is dead, the political process can be rebuilt. It may not produce a solution

satisfactory to the extremes but that was never possible. The talks should be refocused on the constitutional parties and on what is achievable."

The Labour party has drawn up a three-point plan to organise Protestant marches through Catholic areas to help avoid a repeat of the five-day Portadown stand-off earlier this month. Mo Mowlam, Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, said a code of practice for marches should be established outlining routes.

Ms Mowlam, in Dublin yesterday to meet Irish Government ministers and opposition leaders, said there should be guidelines on the parades

to ensure the routing is fair and consistent and acceptable to both communities. She called for urgent agreement in Londonderry over the disputed route of next month's loyalist Apprentice Boys' march.

A £40m industrial investment package has been postponed because of the recent riots. An estimated 1,000 jobs would have been created if a plan to build a high-tech spinning machine factory had gone ahead. However, its Arab backers, who had pledged to spend £20 million on the plant, have put the project on hold.

David Trimble, page 16

Hogg tightens up sheep slaughter to calm BSE fear

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
AND ALICE THOMSON

STRICTER controls on the slaughter of sheep were announced yesterday by the Government in an attempt to reassure consumers that British lamb is safe.

Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, told MPs he was proposing that the heads of all sheep and goats should be removed at slaughter and destroyed, as is already the case with cattle.

The minister said this was a precautionary measure to protect the public against a "theoretical risk" that BSE might have passed to sheep and goats and be present as a new form of scrapie, a brain disease previously regarded as no risk to humans.

Mr Hogg later announced a new compensation package to help beef and dairy farmers affected by the BSE crisis.

He told the Commons that he did not intend to stop eating lamb cutlets because they were "a splendid product". The Prime Minister said he, too, would continue to eat lamb chops. Despite the reassurance, sheep prices were about 15 per cent down on last week's level at more than 40 livestock markets across the country. Wholesalers were reported to have cancelled or-



Hogg said lamb was "a splendid product"

ders for lamb in expectation of lower demand from shoppers.

Mr Hogg said that the Government was consulting with European Union partners on whether other offal from sheep, goat and deer should be removed from the animal and human food chain. It was also commissioning more research into the possible transmission of BSE to sheep. "These steps are being taken out of an abundance of caution. There is no direct threat to human health. This is intended to reassure people, not concern them," Mr Hogg said.

More than 95 per cent of the 19 million sheep slaughtered each year already have their heads removed at the abattoir and sheep brain is not eaten in Britain except by some Muslim communities. Sheep's head soup is a traditional dish in the Outer Hebrides.

There are 84,000 goats in Britain, mainly reared for their milk and hair, but a small market for goat meat has developed. Ruth Goodwin, scientific officer of the British Goat Society, said: "Heads are not usually eaten. But we have just begun to get goat meat off the ground in this country and this suggestion that BSE might get into goats is the last thing we need to hear."

Tory backbenchers accused the Government of creating a "mad sheep" scare for no good reason. Euro-sceptic MPs blamed Brussels for "unnecessary meddling", saying that the French, as the main eaters of sheep brain, were the only ones with reason to worry. There was support for Mr Hogg from Gavin Strang, his Labour shadow, who said it was right to "err on the side of caution".

Mr Hogg released a scientific paper prepared by the Government's Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee. It said there was a possibility that BSE had got into the sheep flock, perhaps via contaminated meat and bone meal in feed, and that the "potential risk to humans from sheep could no longer be regarded as being as low as in the past".

The committee said that if BSE had got into sheep, then both brain and spinal cord could "pose a potential risk to human health if eaten".

The new compensation package announced by Mr Hogg will include £29 million to beef farmers who were forced to sell cattle between March 20 and June 30 at a loss because of the slump in demand and prices. The minister also proposed reimbursing farmers for 90 per cent of the cost of replacing cattle they lose under the accelerated cull of dairy cattle, due to start in the late autumn.

Consumption of other meats will rise by a roughly equivalent amount, with pigmeat accounting for 66 per cent of the increase, poultry meat for 29 per cent and sheepmeat for 5 per cent.

Prices of these meats will rise too, but not enough to offset the decline in beef income.

Leading article, page 17

Reform of EU fisheries urged

By MICHAEL HORNSBY,
AGRICULTURE
CORRESPONDENT

AN INDEPENDENT group of experts set up by the Government called yesterday for a radical overhaul of the European Union's common fisheries policy but said withdrawal would not be in British fishermen's interests.

The report, which will disappoint Euro-sceptic Tory MPs and the more militant fishing organisations, says that Britain would be unlikely to get a better deal outside the

policy. Welcoming the report, Tony Baldry, the Fisheries Minister, said: "The group confirms that withdrawal from the CFP [common fisheries policy] would not be a sensible course of action."

"It recommends unequivocally that the interests of the UK fisheries sector are best served within the CFP and by making efforts to secure improvements. I wholeheartedly agree with this assessment."

John Goodland, vice-president of the Scottish Fishermen's Federation and chairman of the group, said: "We

are advocating reform, not retreat from the CFP. The CFP provides the legal and institutional framework in which our objectives can best be achieved, in co-operation with other countries which share an interest in the European fish stocks."

The group says the Government should concentrate on ending "quota-hopping" — the practice whereby foreign-owned vessels register in Britain to get a share of the British fish catch — and on reducing over-fishing of already dangerously depleted stocks.

**MEN WANTED
EARN £500+ PER
WEEK**

**GIRLS PAY YOU
MEN EAGER LADIES**

**IN YOUR AREA WILL PAY YOU
FOR INTIMATE SERVICES £500+
PER WEEK EASILY POSSIBLE.
LOOKS NOT IMPORTANT, PRIVACY
ASSURED. SEND A STAMPED SELF-
ADDRESSED ENVELOPE FOR THESE
AMAZING DETAILS TO:**



Employment opportunity: an advertisement in the latest edition of *Jobsearch*

Jobcentre journal offers work in the vice trade

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Government has ordered a magazine to be withdrawn from jobcentres after the Labour Party criticised advertisements in them that offered unemployed people work as prostitutes.

The magazine *Jobsearch* is available in 60 jobcentres around the country and this month it carries advertisements inviting the unemployed to consider selling sexual favours as a business opportunity.

One advertisement says: "Men wanted. Earn £500 per week. Girls pay you!" and has a picture of a woman in black underwear.

The advert says that the money can be earned for "intimate services", although looks are "not important". More "amazing details" are available from a box number in London and a contact called Sapphire.

A second advertisement promises that "big money" can be made in the sex industry. "You too can earn a

very substantial income from the comfort of your own home and have a great time into the bargain," it says. "Five great opportunities to choose from."

The magazine, which has been published for five years, has placed the advertisements between opportunities for cleaners and clerical workers.

An unemployed woman in Mold, North Wales, complained about the adverts after seeing them in a copy of *Jobsearch* in her local job club.

Ian McCartney, the Opposition employment spokesman, said the Government had signed a contract with Trinity Newspapers which produces the magazine. "The current edition of this magazine invites vulnerable men and women who are unemployed to take up prostitution as a business opportunity," he said.

"It is unacceptable that people who are unemployed are being offered jobs as prostitutes instead of proper

employment and training opportunities."

Mr McCartney called on Gillian Shepherd, the Education and Employment Secretary, to give instructions for the magazine's withdrawal and to hold an inquiry into how it was distributed in jobcentres in the first place.

Before the magazine's withdrawal was ordered, Mike Fogden, chief executive of the Employment Service, said that anyone offended by the adverts should complain to the Advertising Standards Authority. "It is not for the Employment Service to censor publications or deny job-seekers access to the widest range of job opportunities," he said.

"In general *Jobsearch* appears to be a useful source of information for job-seekers with over 80 pages of vacancies on offer in the April edition."

Eric Forth, the Education Minister, ordered the withdrawal of the magazine after Mr McCartney's complaint.

Major

Continued from page 1

ture of ideas: the improving education and health systems, lower taxes, greater security, greater opportunity in business, the conviction that the country was becoming stronger and a better place to live.

Those things gave people the optimism to say to themselves "I live in this country and thank goodness I do because there is nowhere better to be."

Britain was becoming a great success but that did not seem to be evident to fashionable opinion, he said. "When it is clear to people that Britain is winning... I think you will see the change of opinion that is already beginning to accelerate quite dramatically."

Mr Major basked in the Chancellor's cautious line on tax cuts in November, although he repeated his ultimate objective of a 20p basic rate of income tax. I don't know how long it will take us to get there but that is our objective," he said. "It is clear cut."

Major interview, page 15

Catholic paper attacks the Queen

Continued from page 1

"have always had to work harder than anyone else to prove their loyalty to the British state."

He says, however, that Catholics have remained loyal, despite the supposedly "glorious revolution" that swept away a Catholic monarchy and despite the present monarchy, "which defines itself from time to time by acts of petty anti-Catholic spite, like forbidding Prince Charles to attend the Pope's Mass during a visit to Rome a decade ago."

While Catholics have endured such insults before, he says, "the present conduct of the House of Windsor prompts a question which needs to be given careful attention by English, Welsh and Scottish Catholics. Quite simply, the question is: this Catholic loyalty to the Crown be sustained in present conditions?"

Mr Oddie says he is not questioning the suitability of



Oddie: Queen "forced divorce on Prince"

the Prince of Wales to head the Church of England. "No: what the House of Windsor has now embarked upon is more serious than any actual morality. What we are witnessing is an exercise in damage limitation in which the first casualties have been certain Christian principles, of which until now the Queen was the most notable defender."

Referring to the Queen's

role in the Royal divorce, Mr Oddie says: "The monarchy, in the person of the monarch herself, has become identified not with order but with instability, not with objective moral values but with secular moral relativism, not with Christian ideas of sacrifice and duty but with the quick fix and the bottom line."

"The fact is that she has used her position to force divorce on a wronged wife who was anxious not to be divorced, both for the sake of her children and because she was opposed to divorce in principle, in a way we had always supposed the Queen herself to be."

The marriage breakdown of three of the Queen's children and the "cohabitation" of the fourth has transformed the Royal Family's symbolic support of the family based on marriage "into an even more powerful blow against it."

Mr Oddie adds that by removing the title of Her Royal Highness from the Prin-

cess of Wales, the Queen has "devalued motherhood". This means the Princess's role with her son, second in line to the throne, "will become that of a kind of ambulating womb and child-minder."

Mr Oddie concludes: "By removing Diana's HRH, the Queen has given royal sanction to the secularisation of Christian marriage and completed the work of demolition wrought by her children."

Mr Oddie's article follows an earlier attack by Alice Thomas Ellis, the novelist and a conservative Catholic, who criticised the late Archbishop Derek Worlock of Liverpool for his record of ecumenism.

Mr Coen added: "This reflects a lot of what is being said behind the scenes by Catholics of all traditions. Although I was saddened by Mr Oddie's conclusions, I felt it was a valid issue to raise. I would say we must now start to consider the question of disestablishment of the Church of England."

NEWS IN BRIEF

New trains sidelined by Railtrack red tape

New commuter trains worth £400 million remain unused while thousands of passengers travel in dilapidated "slam-door" trains from the 1950s. MPs reported yesterday. The Transport Select Committee said it was "dismayed" that Railtrack's bureaucratic procedures had prevented the new trains from being introduced on routes to Kent. The trains were ready for use on South Eastern Trains last summer but have been awaiting safety clearance from Railtrack.

The report attacked two privatisation deals that condemned hundreds of thousands of commuters to travel on slam-door trains until at least 2003. The sale of Network SouthCentral and South West Trains on seven-year leases had included no commitment to phase out the rolling stock, in spite of widespread safety worries.

Prison security delays

The Government said last night that some key measures aimed at increasing security in 135 jails in England and Wales had yet to be implemented because the Treasury was unwilling to meet the estimated £2 billion cost. It said that 95 recommendations in the Learmonth report into prison security had been implemented but 32 were still under consideration or being reviewed. They included the building of a "super max" jail for the most dangerous offenders.

Police report under fire

Central Scotland Police faced criticism after its annual report failed to address complaints over its dealings with the Dunblane gunman Thomas Hamilton. In the report William Wilson, the Chief Constable, refers only to the "devastating effect" the massacre had on his officers and his budget. The force said that the report had gone to press before the Cullen inquiry into the killings highlighted the mistakes made in renewing Hamilton's gun licence.

Benefit cash victory

Five Law Lords yesterday backed Dorset County Council in its battle with the Department of Social Security, which refused to pay income support to 450 old people living in 18 retirement homes after they were taken over by a voluntary, non-profit making charity set up by the county. The council, which argued that the residents were entitled to higher level income support, will be able to reclaim the £5 million it has spent on residential care since 1991.

Stars and strips

The BP Portrait Award was won last night by James Hague, 26, from Newton, Derbyshire, who entered a self-portrait. He receives £10,000 cash and a £2,000 commission for the National Portrait Gallery. Second was Peter Andersen, 28, from Dunchurch, Warwickshire. Sadie Lee, who paints female nudes, won the BP Travel Award and will visit a school for striptease dancers run by the Burlesque Historical Society in Helenwood, California.

Ex-editor finds a home

Andrew Jaspas, the former editor of *The Observer*, has joined *The Big Issue*, the magazine for homeless people. Mr Jaspas, 44, was yesterday appointed managing director and publisher of the magazine, which sells 300,000 copies a week. Since being dismissed from *The Observer* in March, Mr Jaspas said he had considered various approaches but none had matched the challenge of *The Big Issue*.

Patient conquers pain

Hypnotherapist Alex Lenkei underwent a 30-minute operation for a groin hernia without anaesthetic and said: "I felt no pain." Mr Lenkei, 49, persuaded surgeons at Kingston Hospital in Surrey that he could be put to the knife after hypnotising himself for three minutes. The father of two from Surbiton, Surrey, said: "I was fully aware of what was going on and felt comfortable."

THE SELF RIDGES SUMMER SALE ENDS SUNDAY 28TH

FURTHER 10% OFF MARKED SALE PRICES FOR LAST 3 DAYS OF SALE*

Friday 26th and Saturday 27th July 9.30AM - 7.00PM Sunday 28th July 12.00NOON - 6.00PM

*Excluding special orders. Items subject to availability.

SELF RIDGES

Oxford Street London 0171-629 1234

A fare day's work for the London cabbie sent to Dundee



Janette Duck: her fare cost train firm £884

BY DIANA THORP
AND ADRIAN LEE

A LONDON cabbie was the envy of his colleagues yesterday after collecting a stranded woman from Waterloo station. He took her to Dundee.

Taxi drivers said they believed that the £884 round-trip of more than 800 miles was a British record. One added: "The guy next in line must be feeling sick."

The fare was paid by South West Trains after Janette Duck, a research technician, missed her connecting coach to Newburgh,

between Dundee and Perth, after a train breakdown on Monday. An official agreed that the company would meet the cost of a taxi and called a black cab.

The journey took nine hours, via the M1, M6, A74, M80 and A9. On the way, the driver, David Wright, bought breakfast for his passenger. Miss Duck, 35, said: "I think his face was sore from grinning. I would have been happy to stay in a hotel and fly home next day, so I was amazed when the train company took that option."

A flight from London to Dundee would have cost £167. The train

company described the circumstances as exceptional and a matter for the manager's discretion. A spokesman for South West Trains said: "We have told our staff to do everything they can to help passengers on our trains. There may have been cheaper ways to get her home, but the decision was taken on the spot. We're pleased to have been able to help this lady."

The official would not be repaid, although the spokeswoman said: "Somebody else might have made a different decision." Miss Duck's train from Portsmouth had ground to a halt for three hours, ten

miles from London, due to an electrical fault. She had been visiting her parents, Grace and Peter, of Gosport, Hampshire, to celebrate her father's sixtieth birthday.

Mr Wright, of Romford, Essex, a taxi driver for three years, asked Miss Duck to take a picture of him standing by the Newburgh town sign and another of the meter, showing the £884 fare. He said that colleagues would not believe him otherwise. His wife, Sandra, said: "He rang me straight in the morning to say he would not be able to look after our son the next morning."

Some of the fare will go towards a

holiday in Cornwall. "We are driving down in his cab. After this, he said it would be a doddie."

Phil Warren, a third-generation taxi driver and author of *Steering Wheel*, a monthly newspaper for cabbies, said: "Long-distance fares are not unusual, but I've never heard of one this far. On August Bank Holiday 1960, I took a chap from Bayswater to Fishguard, in West Wales. He was meant to be meeting his family off the ferry and, without going into detail, he had been a bit of a naughty boy and missed his train. As it happened we didn't make it, but he sent me a nice

letter with a £5 note." The fare was £28.

The reaction yesterday on the Waterloo taxi rank was one of amazement, although some said they had taken customers to Liverpool (£300) and Norwich (£100). One driver reportedly drove four businessmen from Heathrow to Brussels for £600 after they missed a flight. The passengers later sealed a £4.5 million deal.

According to the *Guinness Book of Records*, the longest taxi drive was in 1991, when two Flans made a 14,413-mile round-trip to Spain. It cost them £9,000.

Judge defends action in PC sex assault case

BY KATE ALDERSON

THE judge who was urged to resign after he said a policeman charged with indecent assault deserved no more than a "sound ticking-off" took the unusual step of responding to criticism yesterday by issuing a statement in court.

Judge McCallum said he was astonished by the reaction to the case in Bradford Crown Court when PC Robert Bridle of West Yorkshire Police was cleared of four indecent assault charges.

The judge said: "I am surprised at the way in which the case *R v Robert C. Bridle* has been reported. I am astonished that a retired police-woman, who was on the witness list and who therefore was not in court to hear any evidence, should give a press conference outside the court minutes after the case ended."

"If the press relied upon her comments it is perhaps understandable why some of the reports are as they appear. But that is little comfort to those who would prefer the facts."

The judge was referring to Lynne Tolan, a former detective chief inspector, who had investigated the allegations made against PC Bridle, who is married and lives in Cleckheaton, west Yorkshire. After the hearing she described the judge's comments as "biased, crass, prejudicial and outdated."

The judge had instructed the jury to return not guilty verdicts on all charges, including one in which PC Bridle was accused of feeling a WPC's breasts. Ms Tolan told the press: "The message could rightly be concluded as 'Join Britain's modern police service, girls - and get your tits groped'."

Yesterday the judge issued his comments to the court to put on record "the facts". He pointed out that he had said: "In this case there is now

evidence that a fair degree of horseplay took place during canteen breaks between officers of both sexes, and clear evidence that some of the language used and nicknames given would possibly offend if it were not used in the context of the very close camaraderie we heard of on Shift Rota 3."

"They were obviously a good, cohesive unit who even used to socialise out of hours, and a good deal of banter became an acceptable form of relieving boredom or tension. You may think that is fairly normal amongst professionals performing a stressful job."

"Clearly, it should never reach a stage where a police officer becomes uncomfortable, harassed or indecently touched. Before the prosecution can prove an indecent assault, they must prove that the accused did not honestly believe that no objection would be taken to his actions."

The judge said it was not sufficient to establish that the policewomen objected, which they clearly did. "Prosecuting counsel, now with the benefit of the evidence solicited in cross-examination, feels that he could not properly ask for

that conviction. As it happens, I agree with him, although it matters not whether I do or don't."

The judge then told the jury he must direct one of them to stand and bring in verdicts of not guilty. He added: "That does not reflect whatsoever on the evidence of the policewomen. It simply means that the standard of proof required cannot, in the prosecution's view, be reached and this matter will now have to be considered in what is now a more suitable forum."

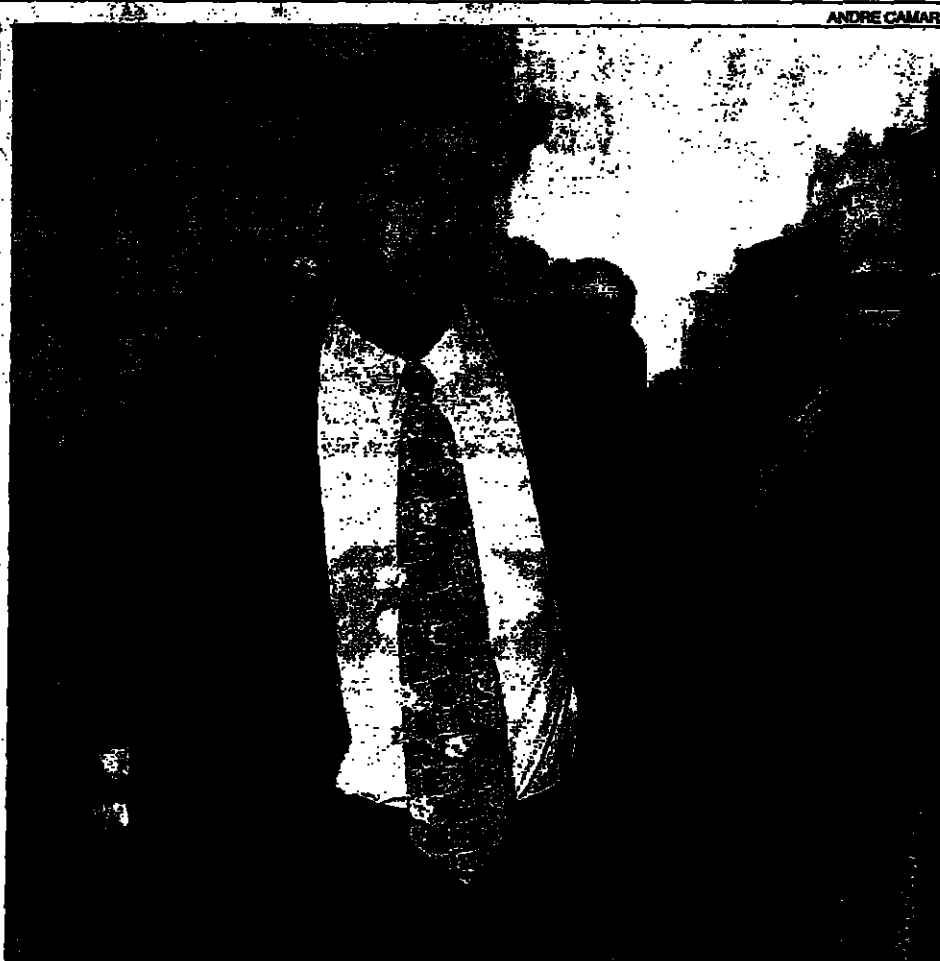
The judge drew particular criticism when he said to the prosecution on Monday: "If a person behaves in that way, if the complainant doesn't want the matter to come to court, the appropriate way of dealing with him is for his superior officer to give him a sound ticking-off and make sure he doesn't behave in a way which most people find unacceptable."

PC Bridle, 41, who denied the charges, had told investigators some allegations related to incidents that had no sexual connotations.

West Yorkshire Police said it would continue to "robustly pursue" other action against the officer, who has been suspended for almost two years.

Judge McCallum was at work again yesterday at Bradford Crown Court, presiding over another indecent assault case. He told David Warner, a paedophile, that he could expect a long term behind bars for indecently assaulting a girl aged seven.

The judge adjourned sentence in order to hear how the girl had been affected by the series of assaults. "Very often in these sort of cases the one person who is not considered is the victim," he said. "I would like to know just what her state is."



Mike Atherton, at the High Court, plays Pakistan today "if you'll let me get away"

Imran heaps praise on 'better than me' Botham

By TOM JONES

IMRAN KHAN told the High Court yesterday that the only person he had ever accused of cheating at cricket was himself. He denied branding Ian Botham and his England team colleague Allan Lamb as being low-class or racist.

Looking directly past Botham and at the fabled jury, the former captain of Pakistan paid glowing tribute to his opponent. Botham, he said, had possessed a natural and tremendous ability and had been better even than him.

Botham and Lamb are suing Imran over "an offensive personal attack" on them in *India Today* magazine which called them racist, uneducated and lacking in class and

upbringing. Botham alone is suing over a report in *The Sun* which he says accused him of ball-tampering.

Asked by his counsel, George Carman, QC, about the *Sun* article and whether he ever intended to accuse Botham of cheating, Imran said: "Sir, never and never again. I specifically did not have Ian in mind because he's not a seam bowler, he's a swing bowler."

Imran said he decided to enter the ball-tampering controversy after the "unsavoury" Pakistan tour of England in 1992. The whole series was about cheating.

He said it had been a great disappointment when Lamb and Botham spoke out against him in the tabloid press after he had confessed to using a bottle-top to tamper

with a ball during a 1981 county match.

Imran said he had been misquoted in an unauthorised biography and the wrong impression given about his opinions of Botham and Lamb. As a result, he said, he had written to both men apologising for any hurt caused to them.

Barrier Mike Atherton, the England captain, agreed he had written in his book that there was nothing new in players trying to alter the condition of the ball and said they had been picking the seam "for donkeys' years".

Asked by Mr Carman on the eve of the series against Pakistan how many Tests he had played, Atherton replied: "Fifty eight so far - and 59 if you will let me get away."

The case continues.

Victim to conceal rape from parents

By JOANNA BAILE

A JAPANESE student faces a lifetime of silent suffering in her home country after six youths held her prisoner for two days in south London and repeatedly raped her. The youths, aged between 15 and 21, are awaiting sentence after being convicted at the Old Bailey.

Their 20-year-old victim is so ashamed of what they did to her that she cannot tell her well-to-do Japanese parents because she is afraid of the effect it could have on them, the court was told yesterday. Suicides are not uncommon in Japanese families where women have been sexually violated, so the student, whose parents paid for her to come to England to study English and British culture, has decided to keep secret her ordeal.

The judge ordered pre-sentence reports on her attackers in view of their ages "and the seriousness of the offences".

The victim was "new to the English language, new to London and utterly at a loss when faced with these men", said Louise Kamill, for the prosecution. "She was from a different culture. She was so overcome with shame when rescued by police, it took two days for her to make a statement."

The tall, slim girl faced lengthy court proceedings in which she had to relive her experiences. She spent 31 hours giving evidence, and being cross-examined over 12 days in the witness box.

Yesterday the victim of the 1986 Ealing vicarage rape said that it was an outrage that the victim had to spend so long in the witness box.

Jill Saward said: "I really think the defence barristers could have got together to decide what questions they were going to ask. Instead they must have been going over the same points again and again because one of the barristers was going 'That wasn't my client, it was somebody else'."



Lane: cut off call

Mother of abandoned boy calls the police

By JOANNA BAILE

A MOTHER who abandoned her four-year-old son under a bush in Bournemouth telephoned police yesterday but hung up without revealing her intentions or whereabouts.

Julie Lane contacted an incident room where her son, Steven, was found asleep in the grounds of a community centre on Monday night. The 23-year-old was recently investigated by Hertfordshire social services after they were contacted by neighbours who had heard the boy crying, but no action was taken.

In a tense conversation with a police officer lasting a few minutes, a softly-spoken but distraught woman said she was Steven's mother. She asked how he was and was told he was safe and in good health.

A police spokesman said: "She was told that we would like her to come forward and be reunited with her son. Unfortunately, after a long pause she hung up. We think she was calling long distance from the number of coins she put into the telephone box."

Steven, from Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, was found by a passer-by and identified by his grandfather, George Lane. Mr Lane, from Tovey, Northamptonshire, thought his daughter, a single mother, had gone to Bournemouth with her son for a short holiday.



**The Citroën ZX,
now with a
choice of finance
packages to
suit your palate.**

ELECT 3 PRICE FOR ZX 1.4I ELATION S 3 DOOR**	£10,204.00
DEPOSIT (4.9%) PAID FOR BY CITROËN UK	£500.00
ONE PAYMENT ON SIGNING	£298.79
23 MONTHLY PAYMENTS (13.9% APR)	£298.79
FINAL PAYMENT	£4,354.00
TOTAL PAYABLE	£12,024.96
13.9% APR	

0% FINANCE

ON THE ROAD PRICE FOR ZX 44 RELATION 53 DOOR	£9,990.00
DEPOSIT (50%)	£4,995.00
12 MONTHLY PAYMENTS (0% APR)	£416.25
TOTAL PAYABLE:	£9,990.00



Car shown ZX Elation S 1.4i 5 door

Consider the clever use of light in the form of an electric sunroof. Admire the fine brush work in the metallic paint and body coloured bumpers. And marvel

**For details about Citroën's Summer Exhibition
contact your local dealer or freephone 0800 262 262.**

CITROËN ZX

Summer Exhibition '96

JUNE 1ST - AUGUST 31ST[illegible]

Principles of Management

PC Stephen
Jefferies

An article
save, con-
pop mu-
reported
of play-
pop mu-
eries had
noise ab-
solutely
sing-danc-
noise be-
and his ne-
related to
February,
the notice
reported
ted that
were not
fied mu-
their neigh-
hour of tri-
article al-
ed the dis-
moved
homes to
moved in
did not
later. We
feries, and
any emb-
these other

**Amschel
Rothschild**
A reprint of
the original

Dr Ray Bhatt

Panorama interview is seen as key factor in the demise of 'special relationship'

Queen ends BBC monopoly on her Christmas speech

By CAROL MIDGLEY

BUCKINGHAM Palace ended 63 years of tradition yesterday by abolishing the BBC's exclusive rights to make the Queen's Christmas message, in a move widely interpreted as retaliation for the *Panorama* interview with the Princess of Wales.

Although both Buckingham Palace and the corporation denied a rift, the BBC's diplomatic correspondent Paul Reynolds described the decision as a direct response to the *Panorama* programme last November and said it marked the end of the special relationship between the two institutions.

From Christmas 1997, ITV will produce the broadcast, which is transmitted throughout the Commonwealth on Christmas Day, for two years, and the BBC will be responsible for the following two years. This year's broadcast will be produced by the BBC because work has already begun.

A statement from Charles Anson, the Queen's press secretary, said the arrangement was being reviewed in early 1995, well before the *Panorama* broadcast. A spokesman added: "We have been considering a change to involve the ITV network as well as the

BBC for some time, so that the arrangements reflect the composition of the television and radio industries today."

Producing the Christmas message costs about £100,000 although some of the expense is recouped through distribution throughout Commonwealth countries.

A BBC spokeswoman said: "We have been assured that the decision was not taken because of *Panorama*." However, relations have been put under strain by the interview, which was recorded in secret at Kensington Palace. The Princess of Wales talked of her marriage break-up and questioned the Prince's suitability to be king.

Palace officials were unhappy at the way the BBC secured the interview and the small amount of notice it was given.

Yesterday on BBC news, Mr Reynolds agreed that the Palace was reviewing the BBC's rights before last November. But he added: "It was not denied to me this morning that the *Panorama* interview had not had a decisive effect on the results of that review."

"I think it is a direct response by the Palace to the *Panorama* interview. I don't say it

wouldn't have happened eventually but it has happened sooner rather than later."

He added that the special relationship was drawing to a close. "Both the Palace and the BBC are undergoing tremendous changes as they try to respond to the outside world and they are having difficulty responding to each other in the old cosy way. The *Panorama* interview threw that into sharp and vivid perspective."

The first Christmas Day broadcast was made in 1932 when George V addressed the Empire on the wireless from a small office at Sandringham with the now famous words: "I speak now from my home and from my heart to you all."

Like her father and grandfather, the Queen broadcast her early radio messages live and from 1957 also did so for television.

Since 1960 the broadcasts have been pre-recorded - often incorporating material recorded during the year - to allow the film (now video tape) to be sent in advance to Commonwealth countries.

The Palace spokesman said ITV would "not necessarily" change the format of the broadcast but added: "We are always looking at ways of



The Queen making her first Christmas broadcast on the radio in 1952. Until 1960 her words were transmitted live

increasing the relevance of the broadcast and its presentation. No doubt the ITV network and ITN in particular have their own ideas to submit to the Palace."

The BBC has traditionally borne the cost of not only making the programme - which has always been made available to ITV and commercial radio stations in Britain - but also of distributing it

throughout the Commonwealth. In future the cost will be met by the network producing it at the time.

The spokesman said there had been close consultations with both the BBC and ITV while the changes were considered, and the Queen had also been consulted.

ITV hailed the decision as a coup for its news team. Marcus Plantin, network di-

rector, said: "I am delighted that ITV has been given the opportunity to participate in this annual broadcast which is so much part of the Christmas tradition in Britain and the Commonwealth." Independent Radio News will be responsible for the radio broadcast.

Two women who were struck by lightning at a Buckingham Palace garden party

are to remain at St Thomas's Hospital for another 24 hours for tests on their hearts.

The women, aged 45 and 55, suffered burns when they were sheltering from the storm under a plane tree in the palace gardens on Tuesday.

The Queen is being kept informed of their condition and is said to be planning to invite them to another party next year.

RAF man tells how mugger shot him

By RICHARD DUCE

AN RAF officer said yesterday that he took a "calculated risk" in trying to disarm a mugger. Wing Commander Peter Driscoll, 40, was shot four times and the bullets are lodged in his body more than a year later.

At the Old Bailey yesterday, he said he was confronted by two men demanding money in May last year as he walked home in south London. He decided to tackle the gunman after a woman passerby shouted "Leave him alone or I will call the police". The officer told the jury: "The gunman turned, hesitated for a second and then fired a round down the street. If I was going to make any attempt to take the gun, that was as good a time as any. I thought I would take a calculated risk."

"It was quite a stretch but I went for him. I touched the gun and got near him, but it was easy for him to take the gun further back. Then he shot me."

Four teams of surgeons operated on the officer. He was hit in the arm, chest, stomach and back. One bullet passed through his wallet, which was shown to the jury.

It is alleged that the shooting was one of a series of violent attacks by Richard Humphrey of Brixton, south London, who denies murder, two attempted murders, robbery and illegal possession of firearms. The trial continues today.

Princess transfers PR burden to secretaries

By EMMA WILKINS

THE Princess of Wales will meet the remaining members of her staff at St James's Palace today to discuss the resignation of Jane Atkinson, her public relations adviser.

The Princess, who returned from holiday in the South of France last night, is confident that three secretaries will be able to deal with media inquiries. Angela Hordern, Victoria Mendham and Caroline MacMillan, known as lady clerks, are employed to open the Princess's correspondence and to plan her diary.

Mrs Hordern, the Princess's personal secretary, is a former Downing Street clerk who accompanied her to Chicago in June. Miss Mendham, the Princess's personal assistant, has worked at St James's Palace for eight years and has joined the Princess on holidays to Colorado and the Caribbean.

The Princess, who will discuss her future plans with officials from Buckingham Palace over the next few days, also relies on Anthony Julius, the lawyer who handled her divorce, for advice. "The Prin-



Atkinson planning a holiday in France

cess will consult the Palace over any immediate practical problems, but they won't be falling over backwards to get involved with her again," one royal source said.

Ms Atkinson is planning a holiday in the Dordogne with her husband George, an advertising executive, and their children Caroline, 11, and Nicholas, 15.

Her resignation on Tuesday came after a series of disagreements with the Prin-

cess, who was concerned by Mrs Atkinson's friendly relationship with the editors of tabloid newspapers. The problems came to a head last week over the handling of the Princess's decision to resign as patron of nearly 100 charities.

Mrs Atkinson, 49, who started her own PR business Atkinson Courage with partner Robin Courage 15 months ago, will turn to developing her corporate clients, including the Equal Opportunities Commission.

The Princess's decision to try to manage without professional advice was criticised yesterday by public relations experts. "She needs a PR strategy now more than ever before," Steve Parish, editor of *PR Week*, said.

"The problem is that the Princess doesn't seem very good at taking advice. Perhaps she is better off relying on people in her office who will do what they are told." He said that her withdrawal from the majority of her charities "would have been hard for any PR to handle".

Diary, page 16

PC Stephen Jefferies

An article headed "Court saves couple from perpetual pop music" (August 14, 1995) reported that after eight years of playing almost non-stop pop music, PC Stephen Jefferies had been served with a noise abatement notice. In fact, although there was a long-standing dispute about noise between Mr Jefferies and his neighbours, the notice related to only one incident, in February 1995. The terms of the notice were also incorrectly reported and should have stated that the Jefferies family were not to play loud amplified music so as to disturb their neighbours between the hours of 11pm and 7am. The article also incorrectly reported the dates when the parties moved to their respective homes. In fact, the Jefferies moved in 1980; the neighbours did not do so until six years later. We apologise to Mr Jefferies and his family for any embarrassment caused by these errors.

Amschel Rothschild

A report (July 22) about the death of Amschel Rothschild stated that he was naked when found. We are glad to make clear, as the French police report confirms, that he was in fact fully clothed.

Dr Ray Bhatt

Dr Ray Bhatt, whose case for unfair and wrongful dismissal by Chelsea and Westminster Hospital is being heard by an industrial tribunal, is not alleging racism by the hospital authorities as incorrectly reported on July 22.

Airline charged with endangering passengers' lives

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH MIDLAND Airways will today face charges of endangering lives after a jet with 183 people on board made an emergency landing at Luton airport when it almost ran out of oil.

In the first action of its kind brought against a scheduled airline, British Midland will be charged with "recklessly or negligently" endangering an aircraft, its passengers and people and property on the ground. The hearing at Luton Crown Court will come six hours after the publication of an official report into the landing.

The report, by the Transport Department's air accident investigation branch, will be sharply critical of British Midland and the Civil Aviation Authority, which is bringing the charges.

The Boeing 737-400 had been undergoing maintenance at the airline's main base at East Midlands, which included a borescope inspection of both engines. Two maintenance engineers responsible for ensuring that the aircraft was ready for use failed to replace the cover on the gearbox sump.

As the jet climbed over Hertfordshire on February 23 last year after taking off from East Midlands airport for Lanzarote, the pilot noticed warning lights on both engines that indicated a sudden and rapid loss of oil pressure. He immediately decided to

make an emergency landing. Inspectors found each engine had only 1.5 litres of oil, although they had been filled with 17 shortly before. The crew are praised in the report for their prompt and professional action in averting a disaster.

Inspectors were called in because the incident followed a series of complaints about declining standards of maintenance and growing concern about commercial pressures on engineers.

Among the more notable examples was the pilot of a British Airways jet who was sucked out of the cockpit window when the wrong size rivets were used to replace the frame. The pilot of a twin-engine Airbus A320 belonging to Excalibur found he could not turn left because engineers had forgotten to reconnect control surfaces on one wing after maintenance.

British Midland has dismissed two maintenance engineers responsible for leaving the oil cap off the engine, brought in an additional level of supervision and changed its maintenance procedures.

An airline has refused to fly 46 registered blind people on one plane to the Channel Islands because it says they are a safety hazard. The Hampshire Association for the Care of the Blind has cancelled the trip after Air UK said the group would have to be split between five flights.

HOW TO INVEST IN YOUR GRANDCHILDREN'S FUTURE AS WELL AS YOUR OWN.

With the Abbey National Retirement Savings Bond you can invest for your own future and get a guaranteed interest rate of 7.25% gross p.a. over a 5 year period.

And with our Children's Savings Bond you can make an investment for your grandchildren too.

Why not enjoy your retirement using the interest you receive either monthly or annually, as well as help get your grandchildren off to a good start in life.

For further information call us free on 0800 100 801 Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm or Saturday 9.00am to 1.00pm, quoting reference A408B or call into your nearest branch.



For your security and to enable us to improve our services to you we may record or monitor all calls to Abbey National Direct. These offers may be withdrawn at any time. To be eligible to open the Retirement Savings Bond you must be at least 18 years old. Minimum investment £2,500. Maximum investment £75,000. To be eligible to open the Children's Savings Bond you must be under 17 years of age. Minimum investment £1,000. Maximum investment £50,000. No additional deposits will be accepted after the Bonds are opened. No withdrawals or closures may be made from the Bonds before 1.5.97. The Bonds will mature on 1.9.2001. You may be able to register with us to receive interest gross; otherwise interest will be paid net of income tax at the prescribed rate. See leaflets for full conditions. Abbey National and the Umbrella Couple symbol are trademarks of Abbey National plc, Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 6XL, United Kingdom.

SATURDAY
IN THE TIMES

EUROWOMAN

Kate Muir meets
Christine Ockrent,
the new face of
Eurotelevision,
in the
Magazine



READER OFFER

Great British breaks at
half-price, in
Weekend

PLUS

Vision, the 7-day TV
and radio guide

Major starts £100m race to give Britain a sporting chance

By JOHN O'LEARY AND JOHN GOODBODY

LEADING sports will have their own national academies under plans announced by John Major yesterday to "revolutionise" British performance and to produce generations of world-beaters. At a reception in the garden of 10 Downing Street, the Prime Minister promised new opportunities for the elite and for less talented enthusiasts.

The £100 million scheme will include a central academy, regional centres, separate academies for the main sports, new incentives for schools, the first specialist sports colleges and double the number of university scholarships.

It is the second stage of his Raising the Game initiative. Last year's proposals for a single academy were controversial among sports administrators, many of whom argued that it would become unwieldy and could not cater for all activities. Yesterday's prospectus for a 100-acre central academy represented a com-

promise, holding open the possibility of using existing facilities such as the Manchester Velodrome as centres for individual sports.

Dick Palmer, secretary of the British Olympic Association, said in Atlanta: "The Government has taken into account the views of many sports people. We are now happy with the arrangement."

Amid concern over Britain's lack of medals in Atlanta, Mr Palmer said that Britain had not invested in sport "for generations — we are well off the world's pace, but I think this might turn things round."

Mr Major said the academy would be the pinnacle of a national network of centres for sporting excellence. New sports colleges would enable talented pupils to develop their skills intensively and a Sportsmark award would identify schools doing most to develop and improve sporting achievement. There would be a "university challenge" to

double the number of sporting scholarships by the time of the Sydney Olympics.

Mr Major announced that 220 sites previously owned by British Coal in the Midlands and the North of England had been secured for sporting and recreational use.

The Prime Minister said that progress had been made since he set out to reinvigorate British sport a year ago. More than half of secondary schools met the target of two hours a week of physical education for 11 to 14-year-olds, compared with barely a third two years ago. A survey last month for the Department for Education showed that in the early years of secondary school, seven out of ten pupils already met the Prime Minister's benchmark. Almost all the secondary schools and three quarters of the primaries surveyed offer sport after hours.

On average, physical education staff devoted up to 20 hours outside their normal



The Prime Minister told pupils yesterday: "My best schooldays were when we had cricket, soccer or rugby"

working hours to school sport. Almost all secondary schools and three quarters of primaries organised competitive sport with other schools.

Mr Major told an audience including Test cricketers, Olympic medallists and children from two inner London primary schools: "In my judg-

ment, sport is as much an important part of school life as maths, the arts and sciences."

He promised action to stop schools and colleges selling off sports pitches, and said that £300 million of National Lottery money would improve sports facilities each year: "It is an initiative that is very

close to my heart. The best days of my life at school were spent when we had some form of cricket, or soccer or rugby."

He told the children: "Anyone who tells you schooldays are the best years of your life needs their bumps felt, except of course with the sporting provisions which I hope will

increasingly be available."

Tom Pendry, Labour spokesman on sport, welcomed the plans but added: "The parlous state of sport in this country is down to years of neglect."

Leading article, page 17

Fear breeds generation of couch potatoes

By JEREMY LAURANCE

THE decline in school games, the increasing use of the car and fears about letting children go out alone have produced a generation of junior couch potatoes.

One experiment in which young people aged 8-16 had their activity levels measured for three days with a heart monitor on their chests found more than half the girls and a third of the boys did not experience the equivalent of a brisk ten-minute walk.

The Armed Services are finding teenage applicants so out of condition that up to 40 per cent are turned away.

Although more children than ever own bicycles, less cycling is done because parents will not allow children out on the streets. For the same reason, the proportion who walk to school has fallen by 75 per cent in 20 years. Even in the school playground youngsters are more inclined to stand chatting than to play active games.

Professor Neil Armstrong, director of the Children's Health and Exercise Research Centre, said government policy placed too much emphasis on competitive team games which most children never played after they left school.

Teachers' contracts keep pupils at desks

By JOHN O'LEARY

COMPREHENSIVE education, the national curriculum and the politically correct attitudes of left-wing teachers have all been blamed for the demise of school sport. But the most serious decline can be traced to a series of pay disputes a decade ago.

The introduction of contracts specifying teachers' working hours hit many extracurricular activities. Sport was perhaps the biggest loser, with teachers refusing to supervise after-school and weekend matches. In many state schools, an anti-competitive ethos had already set sport into decline.

About 70 per cent of state schools have seen a fall in extracurricular sports in the past ten years, compared with only 14 per cent of independent schools. Some sports, such as cricket, have experienced particularly steep declines, partly through the loss of more than 5,000 playing fields in 20 years.

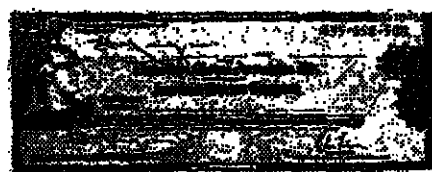
The extra demands on teachers' time from the national curriculum have added to pressures. A survey last year by the Secondary Heads Association found that the time devoted to physical education had dropped by 35 per cent in five years.

“just how
fast will your
holiday
cash be
replaced”

Usually 24 hours or less,

virtually anywhere in the world. Buy American Express Travellers Cheques. Unlike your cash, they can be replaced and replaced fast. And unlike other travellers cheques, they bear the name American Express — which has people all over the world, standing by, ready to help you — at one of our 1,700 Travel Service Offices, or standing ready to courier it to you personally. We'll make sure that when you go abroad, you have one less thing to worry about.

Do more with American Express Travellers Cheques. Below are listed just some of the places where you can obtain them.



Travellers
Cheques

Abbey National, Britannia Building Society, Going Places, Halifax Building Society, Lloyds Bank, Lunn Poly Holiday Shops, Natwest, Post Offices, Royal Bank of Scotland, Woolwich Building Society and American Express Travel Offices.

American Express Services Europe Limited, Reg. Office, Portland House, 1 Stag Place, London SW1E 5BZ, Reg. No. 1633139.

AN EXCLUSIVE TIMES READER PROMOTION

Take a child to the zoo—FREE

Buy one adult ticket and a child goes free



The Times, in association with The Federation of Zoos, gives you the opportunity to take a child free when you spend a day at the zoo. There are 41 locations to choose from (a list was published on Saturday and Monday) where you can save up to £6. The offer is valid any day from today until August 31, with the exception of Bank Holiday Monday.

Visiting a zoo today is an exciting experience for a child. They have imaginative ways of introducing children to wild and dangerous animals. At the Lakeland Wildlife Oasis, Cumbria, for instance, they can crawl through a tunnel underneath the meerkats' sand pit to pop up, protected under a perspex dome, to meet the inquisitive creatures face to face (above). At Edinburgh the penguins stroll around the lawn amongst the visitors. And at Thrigby Hall, near Great Yarmouth, one of the favourite attractions is nearly rubbing noses with an alligator, from the safety of protective glass.

The Federation of Zoological Gardens of Great Britain and Ireland is a charity which represents the interests of 60 zoological and wildlife collections.

HOW TO APPLY
Collect four differently numbered tokens from The Times, attach them to the voucher (already published) and present it at the zoo's ticket office. You will be entitled to a free child entry when paying one full adult admission. The voucher is valid for one zoo visit.

THE TIMES



TOKEN FIVE

Branson dismisses result of 'toothless' lottery inquiry

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

RICHARD BRANSON yesterday dismissed an inquiry that rejected his allegations of attempted bribery by the American lottery contractor GTEch. "We expected the report to be worthless and have not been disappointed," he said.

Mr Branson expressed amazement that Peter Davis, the National Lottery regulator, who set up the inquiry, had published the report while legal proceedings were pending. The entrepreneur is being sued for defamation and is counter-suing.

Publication called into question Mr Davis's suitability to be Director-General of Olot, Mr Branson.

The report, released by Olot yesterday after its findings were disclosed in *The Times*, concluded that the bribery claims could not be substantiated. Mr Branson alleged on BBC's *Panorama* last December that Guy Snowden, chairman of GTEch, had offered him a bribe to drop out of the competition to run the National Lottery. GTEch owns part of Camelot, the successful bidder.

Mr Branson refused to co-operate with the inquiry, conducted by a senior QC, Anne Rafferty, and did not give evidence to it. Speaking from the Virgin Islands yesterday, he said: "It has been a toothless inquiry. We felt the right place for these matters to be heard was in court in front of a jury, publicly, where both sides can be cross-examined properly and where all witnesses can be called."

The report had merely restated Mr Snowden's written



Branson: questioned the suitability of regulator

defence to the bribery allegation, he added. Mr Snowden is suing Mr Branson for defamation. The Virgin chief is suing Mr Snowden for accusing him of lying.

Mr Branson said that it was "extremely bad" for Olot to issue the report prior to the court proceedings. "As far as we were concerned, the matter is *sub judice*. We shall go on now with our libel action and we fully expect to win the case. If we do so, I think it makes Mr Davis's position — in the light of this and the history of Olot — invidious."

The Director-General proposes to take no action as a result of the five-page report, which he has had since May. Ms Rafferty concludes that Mr Snowden had no reason to regard the Virgin group as a threat, and says she doubts that so experienced a businessman would make an improper overture in the circumstances Mr Branson described.

She points out that Mr Branson initiated the meeting between the two men, and

questions why it took him two years to make public his concerns about the alleged bribe attempt.

Mr Branson said the questions Ms Rafferty posed would be dealt with in front of a High Court jury later this year, when witnesses would be called and cross-examined and all documents available. "I look forward to the verdict of a British jury who will have had the chance of hearing both sides of the story."

Although his lawyers could have sought an injunction to stop publication of the report, it had taken matters "no further" because they would have been pointless.

A Virgin statement said that Mr Branson had always welcomed an inquiry but had wanted it to be public and independent, with the arbiter appointed independently of Olot and the Department of National Heritage.

GTEch said yesterday: "We are pleased that the Rafferty report has been published and we welcome its conclusions. We are unable to comment further due to the legal case."

Banker sues over hanging baskets

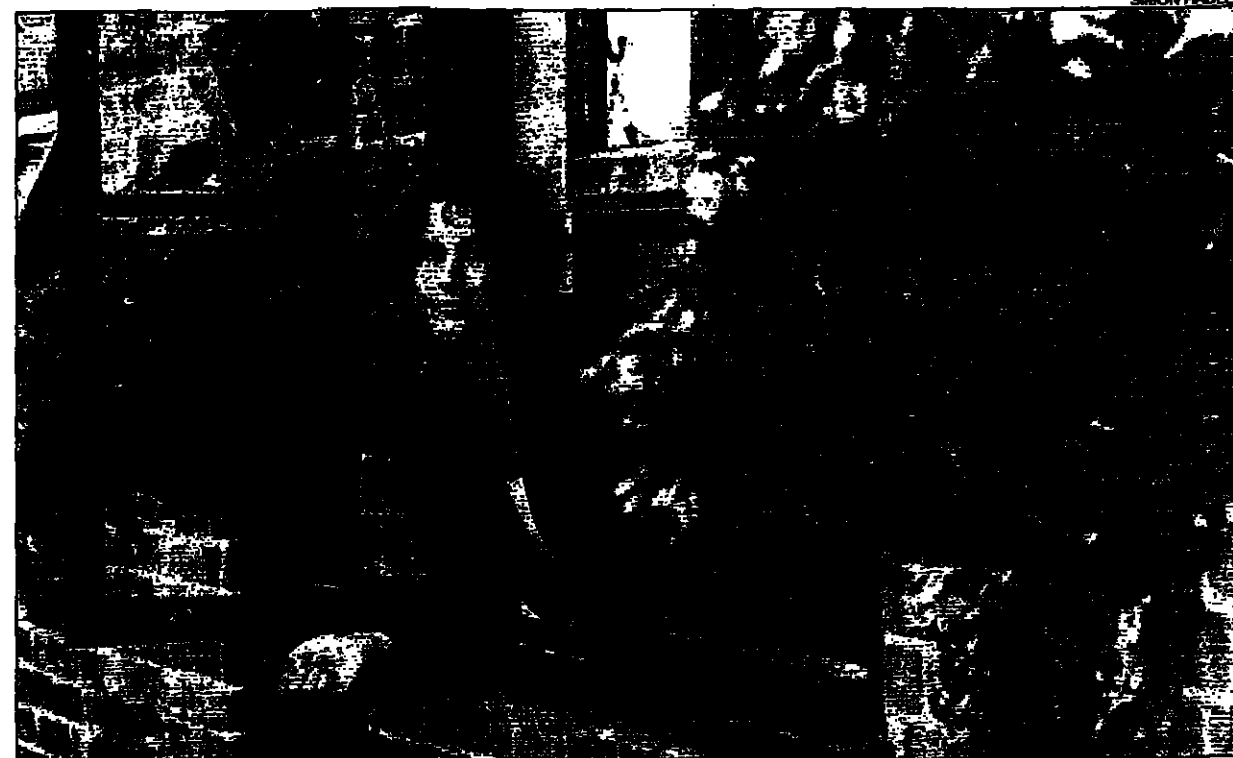
By STEPHEN FARRELL

A BANKER has taken legal action to stop his neighbour watering hanging flower baskets in his back drive.

Philip Townsend issued a writ against Samantha Chilcraft-Clarke, who lives next to his 17th-century house, Wood Dalling Hall, near Reepham in Norfolk. Although Ms Chilcraft-Clarke, 25, has rights of access on Mr Townsend's rear drive, which runs past her front door, he claims she has trespassed by parking on the drive instead of her carport, allowing her five-year-old son to play there, using the road to water her hanging baskets and chatting to neighbours. His family rarely use the drive, preferring the front entrance.

The writ is also seeking compensation for damage to a 3ft bush which Ms Chilcraft-Clarke cut down, claiming it was dead.

Mr Townsend moved into the £350,000 former hotel six years ago. A regular member of the congregation at St Andrew's Church in the village and treasurer of the parochial council, he lives in London during the week,



The owner of Wood Dalling Hall, below, says Sam Chilcraft-Clarke is trespassing by watering her flowers

returning only at weekends. Ms Chilcraft-Clarke said the dispute began the day she moved into her new £39,950 home last November.

"Marianne Townsend came up and told us we were not supposed to be parking there, but said she would let us on that one occasion," she said.

"I went along with what she said, but then I later parked on the driveway again to vacuum my car out because the extension lead would not

reach to the back. Marianne approached me and I told her to go away if she was not going to bring joy and happiness into my life. She then told me I was going to get a solicitor's letter."

Ms Chilcraft-Clarke insists she has no intention of taking down the five hanging baskets, although she fears the legal costs may be high.

The Townsends and their London solicitors, Drives and Atlee, yesterday declined to comment.



THE FIRST WORK OF ART DESIGNED BY AN ACCOUNTANT.



How can it be art,
when there's no pain, no suffering?
You simply drive out
of the showroom in a brand new
Escort LX, Si, Ghia or Ghia X having
paid for only half of it.
After that, there's no need to come

back for two years, when you pay
for the other half.
In between, you pay absolutely nothing.
No interest, no repayments.
You can even give it back at any time.
A masterpiece in simplicity.

ESCORT 1.8 LX 5dr ¹	Typical example
Mileage (per annum)	12,000
Recommended Retail Price	£12,625.00
Estimated on the Road Price ²	£13,260.00
Deposit (%)	50%
Initial Payment	£6,630.00
Balance	£6,630.00
Total Charge for Credit	£0.00
Total Credit Price	£13,260.00
Term (months)	25
Monthly Payments	£60.00
Optional Final Purchase Payment ³ (Minimum Guaranteed Future Value) of	£6,630.00
APR	0.0%

NOW VIEWING AT YOUR FORD DEALER

Subject to availability. Applies to Escort LX, Si, Ghia and Ghia X models (excludes Cabriolet) registered between 1/6/96 and 31/8/96. ¹On the road price based on manufacturer's recommended retail price at the time of going to press, optional spoiler and metallic paint. V6s at 17.5% and £635 covering delivery charges, 12 months road tax licence, number plates and cost of fuel. ²Further charges may be made subject to mileage and condition if the vehicle is returned before the end of the finance agreement or if the optional final purchase payment is not made. Written quotations are available upon request from Ford Credit Europe plc, PO Box 46, Brinsford, Basingstoke, Hampshire GU13 3AH. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Finance is provided subject to status to over 18s only. Certain categories of business users are ineligible.

Military exports 'harm Ireland's standing abroad'

By AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

IRELAND is producing military equipment for export to countries such as Indonesia, Turkey and Saudi Arabia in spite of its policy of neutrality, a human rights report claimed yesterday.

Action from Ireland claims that 14 companies in the Republic and Northern Ireland are making and exporting parts for weapons. They include radar equipment, gun turret components and armoured vehicle technology.

The group claims that the links with the international arms industry undermine the credibility of the Republic's human rights work, which it describes as "the flagship of Irish foreign policy".

The report, *Ireland's Links with the Arms Trade and Military Industry*, comes weeks after the Irish Government's White Paper on Foreign Policy stated that the Republic had "no indigenous arms industry" and no economic dependence on arms exports.

Most of the companies identified in the report are based in the south and west, mainly around the Cork, Clare and Shannon regions. Five of the

14 companies identified confirmed links with the armaments industry and six did not respond.

The report says Adtec and Timoney Holdings in Trim, Co Meath, produce components for personnel carriers. Timoney Holdings said only 20 per cent of its production could be used in military operations. Adtec said 80 per cent of the military hardware it produced went to western democracies.

Some of the companies named are questioning the survey's aims and methods of investigation. Professor Gerry Wrixon of the National Micro-Electronic Research Centre at University College Cork said researchers refused to listen when he told them the centre produced microchips and other components for the civilian wing of international companies involved in making weapons.

He said: "A lot of it has to do with guilt by association. The fact that we work with Siemens, which has a military wing, seems to imply that we are manufacturing weapons. Nothing could be further from the truth."

Test-tube girl plans a quieter majority

By LIN JENKINS

LOUISE BROWN, the first test-tube baby, celebrates her coming of age today. She is planning a quiet day with her family, who can reflect on the future that greeted her birth 18 years ago.

The revolutionary technique pioneered by Patrick Steptoe and Robert Edwards at Bourn Hall Clinic, near Cambridge, enabled John and Lesley Brown to have their longed-for baby and

paved the way for the birth of 150,000 others, including Louise's sister Natalie, 15.

The process of fertilising the egg in a laboratory and then implanting it back in the womb has offered hope to tens of thousands of couples who thought they could not have children.

Mrs Brown is still delighted to have been able to pioneer in vitro fertilisation, despite the inevitable media attention. "I am very proud of both girls. My life would have been empty without them and I can't imagine living without them," she said at home in Bristol.

Louise, who is studying to become a nursery nurse, said she never felt she was someone special. "It wasn't me who made medical history. It was Mr Steptoe and Dr Edwards. They were the miracles — not me."

"I really love babies. I'm concentrating on my studies now but one thing is sure, I want to have my own children, whatever it takes."



Louise has never felt she is special

هنا من الفصل

8 HOME NEWS

Expert claims cover-up on Med's great white sharks

BY NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT
CORRESPONDENT

A THRIVING population of one of the world's most feared creatures, the great white shark, is living in the Mediterranean, according to a British biologist.

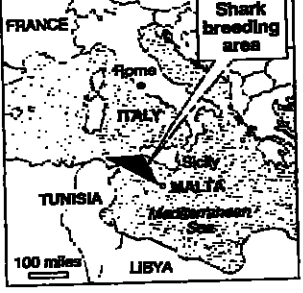
"A commonly held view by regional governments and travel operators is that there are no white sharks in the Mediterranean," Ian Fergusson, a member of the World Conservation Union's shark specialist group, said yesterday. "It is obviously a problem, with concerns about shark attacks, so strenuous efforts are made to cover them up."

His findings, the result of seven years of surveys and interviews with fishermen, shed some light on the little-studied great white population, and will be published soon.

Mr Fergusson, who is based at Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, said that the Mediterranean sharks probably needed classifying as a distinct group, genetically different from great whites elsewhere.



The great white shark's Mediterranean triangle



These have a distinctive black oval marking under the front fins, whereas the Mediterranean sharks do not.

Great whites normally have scarred, scratched bodies. "They tend to nip each other," Mr Fergusson said. "But in the Mediterranean they are very clean. It means they rarely go around in groups and are quite solitary, unlike elsewhere in the world."

The biologist found that in spring the sharks do congregate off the western coast of Sicily to mate. The young, which are emerging about now, are born in a triangle bordered by western Sicily, northern Tunisia and Malta.

Mr Fergusson, who runs the European Shark Research Bureau, said that it had a database of great white shark attacks in the Mediterranean dating back to 1899.

"On average there is an attack once every two years, although in the 1950s and 1960s it was more like five a year." The latest incident was in July 1991 when a woman in a canoe near Genoa, Italy, was attacked. "She was apparently very lucky," he said. "It circled several times but she was rescued by tourists. The last fatality was in February 1989, near Elba."

Mr Fergusson and a South African colleague believe the

great white is being slaughtered in all its habitats in dangerously high numbers by sport fishermen, trawlers and those keen to supply the shark fin soup markets of the Far East.

There is nothing skilful about catching a great white. "They are very curious creatures and will come up to investigate a boat. So it is easy to lob a side of beef and a hook over the side to catch one."

Mr Fergusson added: "In some parts of the world they are seriously endangered. And once they were wiped out of an area of sea or reef, they often failed to return to it."

The shark specialist group, together with the World Wide Fund for Nature, is calling for the great white shark to be listed on the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species. The treaty bans or controls trade in the parts of vulnerable species.

The Shark Protection League, an animal welfare group, yesterday picketed the Sea Life Centre at Weymouth, Dorset, to protest at the keeping of sharks in captivity. It plans to target other marine attractions.



Christine Robertson and children yesterday: private ceremony with the Queen



Sgt Derek Robertson

PC's widow honoured by Queen

THE widow and children of Sergeant Derek Robertson, who was stabbed to death while tackling a robber, collected his posthumous award for bravery from the Queen yesterday.

Christine Robertson, her son Fraser, 9, and daughter Sacha, 6, received the Queen's Gallantry Medal during a private ceremony before an investiture at Buckingham Palace.

Sergeant Robertson, 39, was killed in a frenzied knife attack after trying to prevent a robber escaping from a post office in New Addington, south London, in 1994. Robert Eades, 32, was jailed for life for the murder.

Ancient skull challenges the ape family tree

BY NICK NUTTALL

THE skull of an ancient ape, found in Turkey, could lead to a rethink on the origins of modern apes and possibly mankind. The 10-million-year-old skull, which is well-preserved, shares characteristics not only with modern orangutans but also with chimpanzees and gorillas.

One of the researchers behind the find, Peter Martin of the Natural History Museum in London, said yesterday that the animal could have been the common ancestor of African and Asian apes. The

general belief has been that African apes, which include chimpanzees and gorillas, evolved from one ancient ape but that the Asian ape, the modern orangutan, is believed to have evolved from another species.

But Dr Martin said all these theories were now in doubt as the new find had been living side by side with the other primate apes "so the pack of cards has been thrown back into the air".

He added: "This is the most complete fossil ape skull ever found, with a very interesting mixture of African and Asian ape characteristics."

The eyes are set very close together, which is an orangutan characteristic. But there are also fairly prominent brow ridges, an African ape characteristic.

The fossil, called *Ankarapithecus metali*, was found by an international team in central Turkey, in a layer from the Upper Miocene period. Details of the skull are published in *Nature*.

Dr Martin said that the find might lead to a rewriting of the dates when the ancestors of orangutans, chimpanzees and humans branched off the evolutionary tree. Current timings indicate that orangutans began splitting off about 13 million years ago, gorillas about nine million years ago and chimpanzees and mankind around six to seven million years ago.

"It is controversial, but we might now have to take three to four million years off this, with orangutans splitting off ten million years ago, and chimpanzees and man around three to six million years ago," Dr Martin said.

Ant eater steps out

A RARE ant-eating insect has been spotted in Britain for only the sixth time this century. David Fairhurst, 22, a warden at a bird reserve in Minster, Suffolk, discovered the ant lion - *euroleon nostras* - when he almost crushed it underfoot in a car park.

The insect, which grows to about 9cm long and resembles a dragonfly, was last sighted in Britain two years ago, also at Minster, and previously in 1988 and 1931.

It is believed the ant lion - so called because its young feast on ants by digging traps - has a colony in the area. It is normally found in Mediterranean countries, although there are also colonies in Holland.

Mr Fairhurst said: "It was an exciting find. It just fluttered out from beneath my feet. I tried to chase it but it disappeared." The hunt is now on for its colony.

Leukaemia may begin in womb

BY OUR ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

CHILDREN born to mothers who are exposed to tiny amounts of radiation early in pregnancy may have a greater chance of developing leukaemia, scientists have found.

The claim, which has implications for pregnant women who live in high radon areas or have X-ray examinations, has emerged from studies of children in Greece where women were exposed to radioactive fallout from the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

Scientists have found that children who were in the womb in the months after the accident in April 1986 have been more than twice as likely to develop leukaemia.

"We provide evidence that infant leukaemia may be caused by very low level intrauterine exposure to ionizing radiation," say the researchers, whose findings are published in *Nature*.

The Chernobyl accident, which led to widespread contamination in Ukraine and Belorussia, also dropped large quantities of radioactive materials over Austria and Greece. Increases in thyroid cancers have been found in parts of the former Soviet Union but until now there has been no evidence of an increase in childhood leukaemias in Europe as a result of Chernobyl.

The new findings, by an American-Greek team, indicate that previous studies have been too broad. Some studies have focused on parental exposure to radiation in the belief that leukaemia, caused by a genetic fault, may be passed on to the child by a mother or father exposed to fallout.

For the first time, the researchers looked only at the children who were being carried by their mothers during exposure to contamination from Chernobyl.

The scientists, led by a team at the Harvard Centre for Cancer Prevention in Boston, were helped by the fact that Greece has, since 1980, kept detailed records of childhood leukaemia cases.

British scientists from the Imperial Cancer Research Fund and the Leukaemia Research Fund say further research is needed before a link is definitely established. They believe the children now need to be genetically screened to see if their DNA has damage consistent with the disease.

Up to 25% off garden furniture (and a lot more besides).



£29.99

5 position chair with Trinidad cushion
Was £39.99
Was £34.99

£39.99

3m Extension Ladder
Was £49.99



£7.99

Do It All Pure Brilliant White Emulsion 5l
Vinyl Matt or Vinyl Silk
Was £8.99



£64.99

Black & Decker KS755PE Jigsaw
Was £84.99

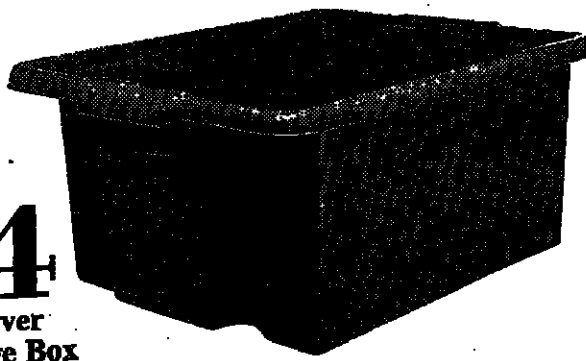


£74.99

2 Ascot folding chairs
Was £99.99

£4

Curver Storage Box



2 for the price of 1

DO IT ALL
LET'S DO UP BRITAIN!

Offers subject to availability.

Reduction

THE
Subscri

The Times
any
offer
other
De

For
please
on the

FREEP
0800 12
Mondo Fr

Dispute will test political clout of Right's would-be leader

Michael Portillo faces a critical test of his political clout which could affect his future as a standard bearer of the Tory Right after the election. He is now engaged in a fierce, and semi-public, battle with Kenneth Clarke and the Treasury over £3.5 billion of defence orders which arms equipment companies and the services had been hoping would be announced this month.

So far in his ministerial career, Mr Portillo has remained unscathed by the loyalist camp, despite the urgings of his "friends" to be bolder and occasional rhetorical indiscretions. In the process, he

has seen John Redwood emerge as the highly visible leader of the Euro-sceptic Right. Mr Portillo has just won a bruising battle with many Tory MPs and service interests over the sale of Ministry of Defence married quarters. Announcing the procurement orders now would help him rebuild his position among this group.

The current dispute has produced a powerful alignment in favour of awarding the orders — from the services (particularly the Royal Air Force and the Army), from defence suppliers, from MPs interested in defence matters (in-

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

cluding yesterday the Defence Select Committee) and the larger number of members with arms factories in their constituencies, and from Tory right-wing critics of Mr Clarke. Robert Key yesterday publicly talked about an anti-Portillo manoeuvre by Mr Clarke and his friends. The orders would preserve or create thousands of jobs, not least in some Tory marginal seats, while the argument that Britain's forces need to be well-equipped has a powerful

appeal to Tory MPs. Next to law and order, defence is one of the few areas of public spending generally acceptable to Tory MPs.

It is not just a matter of the specific orders for maritime patrol aircraft, cruise missiles and anti-tank weapons, important though they are. The real argument is about whether the defence budget should escape the cuts in existing expenditure plans which the Treasury is trying to obtain across Whitehall. How far do previous promises of stability in the defence budget and protecting frontline capabilities still hold?

The Defence Select Committee

report can only partly be discounted as familiar special pleading by the defence lobby. But it is unprecedented for a Tory-dominated committee to warn that it cannot recommend the 1996 defence estimates (which will be voted upon by MPs on their return in mid-October) unless "ministers make clear in the debate that this year's statement will not again be undermined by further defence cuts in the 1996 Budget". The committee highlights widely shared worries about strains on the forces, notably for the Army as a result of the Bosnia commitment. These problems are real, however much waste

no doubt exists in the defence budget.

So eager, however, is the Cabinet to secure expenditure savings, and hence tax cuts, that Mr Clarke has won agreement that the orders should be reconsidered as part of the annual review of public spending plans. The Ministry of Defence insists that the commitment to the orders has been collectively agreed and the only question is one of timing. But any delay could produce a postponement of some orders and have big implications for the defence industry and the morale of the services.

The issue is likely to be raised at

the Cabinet this morning. The Portillo camp naturally denies that the Treasury has "won" and claims that the orders could still come during the recess. I wonder whether there could be an announcement in the Defence Secretary's speech to the Tory conference in Bourne-mouth, to erase the memory of his ill-judged excesses last October. The dispute should be containable, but it involves an inflammable mix of personal, departmental and policy differences. Mr Portillo has to decide how far he wants to raise the stakes.

PETER RIDDELL

Portillo seeks allies in defence cash battle with Clarke

By MICHAEL EVANS AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

MICHAEL PORTILLO will try to win support at today's Cabinet meeting in his battle against the Treasury's move to delay £3.5 billion in defence spending until next year.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, is keen to delay three defence equipment contracts and have them reassessed in the forthcoming government spending round.

Mr Portillo, the Defence Secretary, has warned his Treasury colleagues about the depth of backbench feeling over previous broken promises not to reduce the defence budget. Ministers and MPs have suggested that he is fighting a losing battle but his close colleagues say that he still believes that Mr Clarke can be persuaded to relent.

Yesterday the Government was given a blunt warning against imposing further cuts this year. MPs on the Commons Defence Committee said it would refuse to recommend the Government's 1996 White Paper on defence spending to the House unless ministers promised there would be no more cuts. They want to prevent a repeat of what happened last year, when some MPs claim the Government "cheated" Parliament by cutting the budget by more than £600 million after it had been approved.

One of Mr Portillo's sup-

porters said: "He knows that MPs will not let go of this one and that some loyal government supporters are coming out in protest."

In a report published yesterday, the Defence Committee said the 1995 Statement on Defence Estimates, *Stable Forces in a Strong Britain*, was approved by the Commons on October 17. But in the Budget six weeks later the spending plans it contained were reduced by £686 million. Robert Key, a former Tory minister on the committee, said: "Parliament was cheated because we had a debate on the estimates. We approved the budget, and then a few weeks later these estimates were cut... Ministers must have known, when they responded to that debate, that these budget settlements had been reached."

Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Democrat defence spokesman and a member of the committee, said the warning that it had given the Government was unprecedented. He added: "The Ministry of Defence is no longer in charge of British defence policy. The Treasury has taken over. Tax cuts have become more important than sound defence."

Many Tory MPs protested yesterday at threat of further cuts and the plan to delay the

defence orders. Mr Key, MP for Salisbury, said: "There are a lot of very senior backbenchers who do not even have constituency interests who are horrified that the Chancellor may be holding up projects on which thousands of defence jobs depend. We are right behind Michael Portillo and his team of ministers. But I do have to ask myself if this is another anti-Portillo move by Ken Clarke and his friends."

North West MPs fearing threats to British Aerospace were particularly angry. Robert Atkins, MP for South Ribblesdale, said: "It would be unacceptable to delay the procurement projects, which affect not only the North West but other areas of the country, beyond the next few days."

"The decisions have been taken, the agreements have almost been made. It requires the Treasury to give the go-ahead and we expect that very soon indeed."

Nigel Evans, MP for Ribblesdale, said the delays were extremely worrying for the workforce involved. "The Government has to pull its finger out. There are many people waiting for this order to be given and they want to get on with it."

In its report, the Defence Committee said that the Armed Forces were managing



Kenneth Clarke and Michael Portillo, who hopes that backbench pressure will force the Chancellor to relent



to meet their commitments. However, the strain caused by short tour intervals, scarcity of training and serviceability of equipment showed that "in an emergency they would be hard-pressed to operate effectively at a higher level of activity or undertake any additional operational commitment".

The MPs said there was supposed to be a 24-month period between tours. But there had been "repeated failures" to meet this target, especially since the Army now

had 10,500 personnel serving in Bosnia. "Such repeated breaches of the 24-month tour interval mean that either Bosnia is too big a commitment for the Army or that the Army is not big enough for the tasks it is being given."

The Army's main problems were manpower shortages, meeting the Bosnia commitment and training. Only seven out of 54 regiments and corps were at or above their full establishment, with 31 units more than five per cent understrength, of which 15 were

more than 10 per cent undermanned.

The Army's heavy commitment to peacekeeping in Bosnia also meant it was unable to train as much as it should be for other operations. The skills needed for high intensity and particularly armoured warfare would not be maintained, the MPs said.

Soldiers appeared to be satisfied with equipment and were proud of their achievements in Bosnia. However, the period of stability promised in last year's Defence Estimates,

"must be made a reality".

The report also called for a replacement for the Royal Yacht *Britannia* to be built in a British shipyard by 2000. The yacht which is due to be withdrawn from service, had important ceremonial, diplomatic and trade functions and should be replaced by a new vessel flying the White Ensign and manned by the Royal Navy, the MPs said.

□ *Statement on the Defence Estimates 1996*, Defence Committee Seventh Report (Stationery Office: £19.50)

Proposed new rights for flat residents

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

FLAT-OWNERS in communal blocks will be able to buy the freehold of their homes and jointly manage the property under proposals outlined by the Government yesterday. The measures are expected to be contained in a Commonhold Bill this autumn. They will also apply to occupiers of commercial developments such as business parks.

Commonhold will be essentially a voluntary system to be established only if owners agree. It will not give long-leaseholders the right compulsorily to acquire the freehold of their building.

The flat or unit owners will set up a management association to run the block and communal areas such as gardens or stairs. Each householder will own the freehold of their unit outright.

The Lord Chancellor's Department said the aim was to provide a statutory framework of rights and obligations, directly enforceable by and against each unit owner. The owner would no longer have to depend on the vagaries of the terms of the lease of their particular property or on a landlord's willingness to co-operate in enforcing the owner's rights.

The draft bill is available from the Lord Chancellor's Department, Selbourne House, 54-60 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QE. The deadline for comments is September 27.

Reduction in MoD police 'too drastic'

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

MPs are urging the Ministry of Defence to rethink its intention of cutting its police force by more than 1,500. The reduced force of about 2,900 might not be enough to meet all unforeseen emergencies, the Commons Defence Committee said in a report published yesterday.

The MPs said a "cut of this magnitude"

could undermine the viability of the MoD police force. The MPs also cast doubt on whether a force of 2,900 would have sufficient flexibility "to respond adequately to unexpected commitments or emergencies or to fulfil its role in war".

The MoD considers that a force of as few as 2,500 would be sufficient and would still be the 21st largest force out of the 53 police forces in the UK. However, the Defence Police Federation told the

MPs the cuts, to be made by early next century, were so drastic "as to endanger the effectiveness, viability and resilience of the force".

The MPs recommended that the MoD reassess its requirements for armed guards and policing in transition to war, and in war.

□ *Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding*, Defence Committee, Eighth Report (Stationery Office: £15.90)

World Service study agreed

By CAROL MIDGLEY

THE Foreign Office yesterday instructed Sir Christopher Bland, the BBC Chairman, to set up a working group to address concerns about the future of the World Service.

After a meeting between Sir Christopher and Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, it was announced that a joint BBC and Foreign Office group would be formed to examine the likely impact of the proposed reorganisation which will merge World Service English language news services with mainstream departments. The Foreign Office is concerned at the effect the changes would have on output quality.

The meeting yesterday coincided with an open letter to *The Guardian* signed by 140 prominent individuals urging John Birt, BBC Director-General, to delay the implementation of the plan.

Last week Mr Birt was questioned by MPs on the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee who were dissatis-

fied at the way sweeping structural changes had been introduced. The BBC's management and government ministers were not informed until the last moment.

The World Service has an annual grant from the Foreign Office, currently £169.9 million. Sir Christopher told Mr Rifkind that the BBC intends to maintain the World Service's distinct agenda and programme quality and ensure costs do not rise.

A joint statement said: "It was also the intention that through sharing Home and World Service expertise there should be significant improvement in the range, depth and quality of home and World Service news and analysis."

IN PARLIAMENT

The House of Commons will return from the summer recess on Monday, October 14. Today in the Lords: debate on plans for privatisation of Recruitment and Assessment Services. The House will then rise for the summer recess, returning on Tuesday, October 15.

VOLVO OWNERS COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE FROM **£120**

Extra Safety = Lower Insurance

Exclusive Schemes for Volvos

Tel: 0117 929 4971 NOW!

or Phone your Nearest Branch at the Local Rate on

0345 123111

Hill House Hammond
Over 250 Branches Nationwide

THE TIMES Subscriptions

The Times will match any subscription offer you receive from other daily national newspapers.

For further details please call us FREE on the following number:

FREEPHONE 0800 120 130

Mon to Fri 9am to 6pm. Sat 9am to 3pm

Offer available in the UK only

Keeping you posted:

Customer advice about the Postal Strike

During the postal strikes, 24 hour telephone banking at First Direct will continue without interruption. However, some services by post may be affected and we have made special arrangements to keep inconvenience to a minimum.

Dates of the strike

Industrial action is due to take place on the following dates:

- Friday 26th July (24 hours)
- Wednesday 31st July to Friday 2nd August (48 hours)
- Tuesday 6th August (24 hours)

Sending cheques by post

Since cheques sent by post will inevitably be delayed please use your nearest branch of Midland Bank to pay in urgent credits.

We regret that customers in Scotland may find this difficult due to limited access to Midland Bank branches. Sterling credits can be made at other banks, but you may find you are charged for this.

Travel Orders

The despatch of First Direct Travel Orders (foreign currency and travellers cheques) will not be affected during the postal strike. Orders will continue to be despatched by registered post. Please note that where delivery to an address has been unsuccessful the sorting/collection offices will be open for collection.

Sterling and foreign drafts

If you request either sterling or foreign drafts from us we can arrange for you to collect them from your nearest Midland Bank branch. Certain Midland Bank branches will need at least 24 hours notice prior to collection. If you specifically request First Direct to post your draft you may experience a delay in receipt.

Cards/PINs/Cheque Books

For obvious security reasons, newly ordered cards will not be collected by the Royal Mail after a specified time in advance of the strike. This should ensure that

unsigned new cards are not in the Royal Mail offices during the strike periods. You may therefore experience delays in receiving your cards. Receipt of your PIN and new cheque books may also be affected.

Standing orders and direct debits

Again, direct debit mandates and standing orders posted to us will be subject to delays during the strike period. To avoid this we encourage you to set up standing orders with us by telephone.

Account Transfers

If you are transferring your bank account to First Direct from another bank there may be a delay in us receiving your previous bank account's balance in the post. If this happens extended credit facilities can be discussed with you. Transfers from Midland Bank to First Direct will be unaffected by the strike.

Mortgages

If you are arranging your mortgage through us and are concerned about delays, your dedicated mortgage counsellor will be happy to discuss this with you.

New Customers

You can apply to become a customer of the UK's leading 24 hour telephone bank anytime, we're always open.

If you apply during the postal strike you may experience delays in the receipt of application forms to and from ourselves. Wherever possible, we'll advise you of these.

If you are an existing customer and have any queries, call us on:

0345 100 100

If you are not a customer and would like to know more about First Direct please call us on:

0800 24 24 24

first direct

For full written details of our services write to First Direct, FREEPOST, Leeds LS98 1FD. First Direct is a division of Midland Bank plc. First Direct reserves the right to decline to open an account for you. Calls are recorded and monitored. Applicants must be 18 or over. Member HSBC Group

Burundi coalition ends as President flees to US mission

FEARING for his life, the Hutu President of Burundi took refuge at the US Ambassador's residence in Bujumbura yesterday as Tutsi politicians withdrew from his fragile coalition Government, accusing him of plotting genocide against their tribe.

As news of President Ntubunganya's flight spread through the Burundian capital, Tutsi youths armed with nail-studded clubs jogged in military formation through streets long since cleared of Hutu rivals.

Yesterday's collapse of the coalition, which has been a talking shop for Hutu and Tutsi moderates since 1993, raised the spectre of a military coup to fill a power vacuum in the blood-soaked former Belgian colony. But sources in the Tutsi-led army insisted they would not take power, mainly



Amid fears of a coup, the streets of Bujumbura have been taken over by militant Tutsis armed with nail-studded clubs, Sam Kiley writes

because they fear a coup would trigger an invasion by peacekeeping forces from Uganda and Tanzania backed by America.

The US State Department confirmed that it was sheltering Mr Ntubunganya and called for calm in Burundi, where an average of 100 people are dying in ethnic killings every day.

Western diplomats said they were trying to "keep the situation from escalating from violence into complete chaos". But none expected much success in a country where ex-

tremists have indoctrinated members of both ethnic groups to believe the other is bent on annihilating them.

Mr Ntubunganya fled to the US Ambassador's residence late on Tuesday night after being tipped off that the Tutsi Uprona Party was planning to withdraw from the pact which secured his post in 1994. He opted to stay there rather than risk the "protection" of his army bodyguards, who were responsible for the murder of his predecessor, Melchior Ndadaye, in 1993.

US diplomats tried to act as go-betweens for the President and Antoine Nduwayo, his Hutu Prime Minister, but the Government disintegrated when Uprona announced its withdrawal from the coalition yesterday.

Charles Makasi, president of Uprona, cancelling the convention which established a 40-60 ratio power-sharing deal between the Tutsi and Hutu parties, said that Mr Ntubunganya "has the ideology of genocide and supports people who inflame ethnic hatred".



Victims of the massacre of 312 Tutsis at Gitega last week being buried on Tuesday. The Burundian leader was attacked at the ceremony

The 1993 murder of Burundi's first Hutu President unleashed a cycle of ethnic bloodletting which has left at least 150,000 people dead.

Meanwhile, the 1994 genocide of about a million Hutu moderates and Tutsis in neighbouring Rwanda drove Burundi's Tutsi minority into a state of violent paranoia. Rwanda's Hutus have sup-

plied arms and training to their ethnic kin in Burundi, which has created a balance of terror with the Tutsi-dominated army.

Mr Ntubunganya's downfall stemmed from the massacre last weekend of 312 Tutsis at a camp in Gitega, 75 miles east of the capital.

When he attempted to attend the funeral ceremony on

Tuesday, he was pelted with rocks and dung by mourners, while Tutsi soldiers looked on with indifference. The collapse of his coalition means that moderate Tutsis have lost the initiative to Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, Burundi's former military dictator, who leads the Tutsi youth militia and has long called for the overthrow of the Hutu President.

As night settled over Bujumbura, which nestles between mountains and Lake Tanganyika, the Tutsis, who "ethnically cleansed" the capital of Hutus last year, seemed confident of the future.

But in the countryside, where Tutsis live in camps guarded by soldiers, Hutus are likely to be preparing themselves for a pre-emptive

strike against their tribal foes. "I'm worried about my family. They don't live in Bujumbura and the army cannot be everywhere to save them when the Hutus get angry," said one hotel employee whose tribe makes up only 15 per cent of the population. "They might even stream down from the hills and overwhelm us," he added.



President Ntubunganya, centre, is shielded from mourners who blamed him for the ethnic killings

Mitford, queen of muckrakers, dies

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN ATLANTA

JESSICA MITFORD, the writer and former Communist activist, has died of cancer at her home in Oakland, California, aged 78.

Miss Mitford became known as the queen of muckrakers for her 1963 book *The American Way of Death* in which she attacked the unctuousness of the euphemism-bound funeral parlours, where coffins are "caskets", hearses "processional cars" and corpses "loved ones". More seriously, she accused undertakers of overcharging, and the Federal Trade Com-

mission was impressed enough to investigate the funeral business. Pauper funerals became known as "Mitfords".

Asked once what sort of send-off she would like, Miss Mitford replied: "Six black horses with white plumes, and I certainly want to be embalmed, because the embalmers claim they can make you look 20 years younger."

Miss Mitford, who was born in Batsford, Gloucestershire, eloped to Spain at the age of 19 with Esmond Romilly, Winston Churchill's

nephew, and they moved to America in 1939. Romilly was killed during the Second World War.

She started to write after losing a job in the advertising department of the *San Francisco Chronicle* when she was being investigated by the FBI for left-wing activities. She wrote the autobiographical *Hons and Rebels* in 1960.

Miss Mitford and her second husband, Robert Truhaft, were active in the Communist Party in the Fifties and Miss Mitford was prominent in the East Bay Civil

Rights Congress, which, half a century before the Rodney King case, fought police brutality against blacks in California. She left the party after the invasion of Hungary by Soviet troops in 1956.

Joseph Dumas, an acquaintance, said yesterday: "Jessica was consistent in her views, right up to her death. She never lost her old-fashioned English demeanour, but her views belonged very much to the late part of the 20th century."

Obituary, page 19

Third jail death as Turks fast

Istanbul: Inmates in Istanbul's Bayrampasa prison were refusing yesterday to release the body of Ilgin Ozkeskin, the third Turkish prisoner in as many days to die on hunger strike (Andrew Finkel writes).

While about 1,700 political prisoners throughout Turkey have been refusing solid food during the 67-day protest, more than 275 of them are also rejecting sugared water. Several are reported to be in critical condition. Bulent Ecevit, the opposition leader, urged the Government to prevent what was becoming a mass suicide.

In Lyons, about 20 Turks have begun a fast to urge France to put pressure on Ankara to resolve the dispute.

French name railway chief

Paris: Louis Gallois, chairman of the French aerospace group, Aérospatiale, is to head SNCF, the state-owned railway company, replacing Loïc Le Floch-Prigent, who resigned last week after his arrest in connection with a corruption inquiry (Susan Bell writes).

M Gallois, 52, Aérospatiale's chief since 1992, will be the seventh SNCF chairman in 15 years. In the past four years the company has run up losses of more than Fr5 billion (£4.5 billion).

Ex-monk accused of raping tourist

Bangkok: Thai police have arrested a former Buddhist monk and charged him with raping and robbing a Japanese girl tourist, 16. Sudprasert Prachakul, 18, was held after the girl said the man lured her to visit Wat Tamkhaopoon temple, about 70 miles west of Bangkok, where a Buddhist monk robbed and killed a British tourist, Johanne Masheder, 23, last December. (Reuters)

Visitors hit by pyramid selling

Cairo: Entry to all Egypt's archaeological sites, including the pyramids, will double in price for foreign tourists from October. The Antiquities Council said prices had not risen for six years and extra money was needed to restore ancient monuments, maintain museums and fund archaeological digs. (AFP)

Cost of loving

Peking: Tianjin in northern China is imposing a "sin tax" on unmarried couples living together, the Xinhua agency said. The couples can be fined up to 1,000 yuan (£80) under a new code in the city. (Reuters)

America threatens UN aides who lobby for Boutros Ghali

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

A SLANGING match has erupted between the United Nations and the United States as Washington intensifies the pressure on Boutros Boutros Ghali to step down at the end of his term as UN Secretary-General.

America, aiming to undermine Dr Boutros Ghali's position, went on the offensive this week and threatened to investigate any UN staff who use UN funds to lobby for a second five-year term for the veteran Egyptian diplomat.

"Frankly, he has lost the confidence of the United States," Madeleine Albright, Washington's UN Ambassador, said in a television interview. "We are the United States and it is important, when the most powerful country in the world looks at an international organisation, that we have somebody at the head of it who, we think, is suitable to take it into a dynamic new age."

When word of American

opposition to Dr Boutros Ghali was first leaked last month, Washington approached other members of the 15-nation UN Security Council to discuss possible replacements. Ms Albright told a meeting of African and other non-aligned nations on Monday that Washington's decision to block Dr Boutros

Ghali's re-election at the end of the year was irrevocable. James Rubin, her spokesman, issued a warning that Washington would investigate any UN staff who used the organisation's time and money to muster support for a second term.

The Americans are believed to be particularly unhappy about the role played by Lansana Kouyate, the UN official who oversees Africa, in lobbying for support for Dr Boutros Ghali at the recent summit of the Organisation of African Unity.

Sylvana Foa, the chief UN spokesman, criticised America for threatening to investigate the organisation's staff, saying it smacked of McCarthyism. She accused Mr Rubin, who is about to join President Clinton's re-election campaign, of waging a "disgraceful campaign of disinformation" against the UN.



Boutros Ghali: under pressure to step down

Leading article, page 17

STAPLES
The Office Superstore

SAVE £50

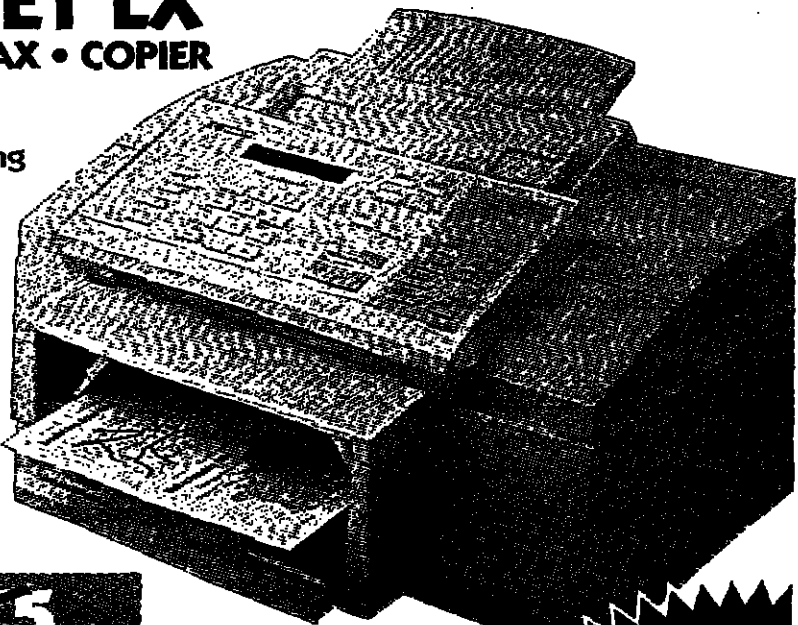
FOR 7 DAYS ONLY!

HP OFFICEJET LX

PERSONAL PRINTER • FAX • COPIER

Features include:

- High quality ink jet printing
- Plain paper fax output
- PC fax capability
- Copies documents easily
- Document scanning function



WAS £575

£525 INC VAT

£446.80 EX VAT

HURRY
OFFER MUST END
31 JULY 1996

FREE MEMBERSHIP

Take advantage of the low prices shown by becoming a Staples member. It's instant and can be arranged by visiting or telephoning your local store. All prices shown are Member prices.

INC. VAT PRICES

Prices are also quoted EX. VAT for those customers who are VAT registered.

VISIT YOUR NEAREST SUPERSTORE

ASHTON	0161 371 0611	LONDON	0181 594 9635
BASINGSTOKE	01256 339796	BOSTON	0181 448 5812
BIRMINGHAM	0121 333 5914	CROYDON	0181 450 8205
ASTON CROSS	0181 764 5595	STAPLES CORNER	0161 834 0435
BIRMINGHAM CIRCUS	0181 707 8372	MANCHESTER	01606 692216
SOUTH YARLEY	01204 363307	NOTTINGHAM	01522 595809
BOLTON	01274 733937	OLDHAM	01274 544 9086
BRISTOL	0117 978 8167	ROTHESHAM	01709 780025
CAMBRIDGE	01223 363332	SHEFFIELD	0114 872 1915
CARDIFF	01222 580484	SOUTHAMPTON	0703 635428
CHATHAM	01634 830537	STOCKPORT	01606 675157
CHELSEA	01845 367404	SWANSEA	01792 480851
COLCHESTER	01206 574839	TURRO	01672 502692
DONCASTER	01302 320506	WALSLEY	01924 278446
HANLEY	01755 207969	WARRINGTON	01925 534776
HIGH WYCOMBE	01494 461722	WEST BROMWICH	0191 553 2976
IPSWICH	01473 810478	WILMESHALL	01908 657517
LEEDS	0113 245 1061		

TO SHOP BY PHONE

FREE NEXT DAY DELIVERY

ON ORDERS OVER £30

TO PLACE YOUR ORDER FREEPHONE

0800 14 14 14

OPEN TO THE

TRADE & PUBLIC

7 DAYS

MON-FRI 8-8 • SAT 9-6 • SUN 11-5

(Orders under £30 or £35 EX. VAT are subject to our delivery charge of £5.95 EX. VAT. £11.10 EX. VAT.) Most day delivery orders must be received by 10.00am on Monday to Friday and will be delivered the next working day. Orders placed on Saturday will be delivered on Tuesday. Delivery is subject to availability. Staples reserves the right to alter prices of offers without prior notification. All prices are Member prices. © Staples Ltd cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies.

Renewing your home insurance in July or August?

If you are 50 or over, just see how much you could save with Saga - call us NOW

You will know how expensive home insurance can be - thankfully, if you are aged 50 or over you can benefit from SAGA Home Insurance - a superior household insurance that is only available to mature, responsible people like you.

SAGA Home Insurance can offer you genuine savings over other policies, while giving you cover that fully protects your home and possessions.

The Saga Price Promise

If you find another comparable policy at a lower price within 2 months of taking out SAGA Home Insurance, we will refund you the difference.

SAGA
Services Ltd

Saga Services Ltd, FREEPOST 731
Middalburg Square, Folkestone CT20 1AZ

Saga Services Ltd would like to send you information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass details to these companies to enable them to do so.

And why not ask us about our competitive
MOTOR INSURANCE



- Insurance cover is comprehensive and low cost.
- Discounts for home security.
- Free pen with your quotation.

Call us today

For your free no obligation quote simply call us on the number below. We will be pleased to answer any questions you have on SAGA Home Insurance.

0800 414 525
ext.3688

Lines open Monday to Friday
9am - 6pm, Saturdays 9am - 1pm

Crash airliner 'hit by two explosions'

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

A NEW puzzle over the fate of TWA Flight 800 emerged yesterday with reports that investigators now believe there were two explosions on the Boeing 747.

The first was said to be at 13,700ft, after which the aircraft descended with no distress call and stabilised briefly at about 9,000ft before the second, much bigger, explosion blew it apart.

The unconfirmed reports were carried by American television networks, which said they were based on new scrutiny of electronic signals. They seem to bear out witnesses who heard two explosions and point to the possibility that the first was a missile or bomb and the second was the 50,000 gallons of fuel going up.

The mystery could be resolved by the flight data and cockpit voice recorders, the "black boxes", both still being sought off Long Island yesterday. A team of 120 divers was also working to recover a large section of fuselage that should yield valuable clues.

Investigators looking for the cause of the crash that killed all 230 on board a week ago continue to examine three possible causes: a missile, a bomb, or mechanical

failure. There are arguments for and against each and none can be disregarded until search teams and laboratory analysts produce evidence such as twisted metal or the residue of explosive chemicals.

"I'm not discounting anything, quite frankly," said James Kallstrom, the former US Marine leading the FBI investigation. However, if it was a terrorist attack, he said, "there's absolutely no doubt in my mind that we will know who did this and where they are. The only question is: Can we take them around the neck?"

The US Army Missile Command ran computer simulations to test the missile theory, but results were inconclusive, indicating that the idea seems unlikely but cannot be ruled out. The tests established that a shoulder-fired Stinger missile, fired from a boat under the flight path, would have needed to push beyond its effective range of 11,000ft to hit the aircraft. However, two copycat Soviet missiles, the SA16 and SA18, have a range of 15,000ft and many have turned up on the world's arms black market since the Cold War.

Kenneth Bacon, the chief Pentagon spokesman, said none of the

radar tracking Flight 800 had picked up signals that looked like a missile. Nor, apparently, did any spy satellites. However, the trail of a small missile might not have been detected. A strong body of circumstantial evidence supports the missile theory. Dozens of witnesses saw something streaking towards the plane. They include two military pilots who were on another commercial flight in the area, both of whom are convinced it was a missile.

The FBI continues to comb marinas, inquiring about recent boat charters. They have pored over fuel receipts and engine cheques. Inquiries into how terrorists could have made their way away have concentrated on merchant shipping in the sea lanes that fan out from New York.

The bomb theory is backed by the bright fireball and evidence in a New York court of how terrorists can smuggle parts on a plane, assemble the bomb in a lavatory, time it to detonate hours later and plant it in a lifejacket under a seat before disembarking. Mechanical problems are the least plausible scenario as they seldom cause a plane to burst into a fireball.



The jazz musician Ricky Ford plays at a Connecticut service for Ramona Jones, his mother. Jones, who was flying to Paris, was one of 230 TWA victims

'Self-criticism' punishment for Clinton satirist

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

JOE KLEIN, the author of *Primary Colours*, a satire about President Clinton's 1992 election campaign, has been asked to stay away from work for several weeks by *Newsweek* because of the furor over his repeated false denials that he wrote the novel.

The magazine's political columnist was unmasked last week as the author, previously known as "Anonymous".

"I have asked Joe, and Joe has agreed, for the next few weeks to reflect on this whole affair and talk to you and listen to you — privately in small groups," Richard Smith, the magazine's president, told a staff meeting at which an emotional Mr Klein apologised to his colleagues.

"I want him to hear the full force of your concerns, your confusion and your anger — if that is what you feel. In turn, I want you to hear directly about his thinking, his motivations and his regrets today."

Mr Smith said he wanted Mr Klein to remain as a columnist, but that there were "complicated issues" to be

resolved about how he combines his journalistic and fictional writing. Mr Klein is working on a sequel to *Primary Colours* tackling life in the Clinton White House.

In the latest issue of *Newsweek*, Mr Klein explained: "I was caught between two commitments, two different ethical systems — book publishing and journalism. I eventually came out in favour of keeping my commitment to the publisher and my book."

Many *Newsweek* staff were angered by his denials of authorship and by the fact that Maynard Parker, the editor, knew about it. *Newsweek* carried a gossip item suggesting someone else wrote the book.

Mr Klein also works for the CBS television network, which broadcast his strenuous denial, and a senior executive is holding a series of meetings with him to discuss his future.

The flap over Mr Klein's identity has done nothing but help *Primary Colours*, which this week rejoined the *Wall Street Journal* best-seller list.

Valiant starlet leaps into the \$1m league

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN ATLANTA

FRECKLED and feather-thin Kerri Strug is in line for a \$1 million pay day after helping the United States women's gymnasts to win gold in the Olympic Games.

Miss Strug, 18, who stands just 4ft 9in in her sporting tights, was fed into America's celebrity machine hours after her final vault in the competition edged the US ahead of Russia. She had made the jump with a badly sprained ankle.

America went Strug-crazy. There has not been as much excitement since the US men's ice hockey team beat the Soviet Union in the days of the Cold War. Miss Strug, her foot still in plaster, was catapulted onto the influential *Today* television programme, and was quizzed over breakfast by Katie Couric, the ace interviewer who only a week ago was peppering questions at Bob Dole, the Republican presidential candidate. The US gymnasts were instantly named "the Magnificent Seven" and Miss Strug and her colleagues were granted an audience with film stars Demi Moore and Bruce Willis. President Clinton watched a videotape of Miss Strug's gutsy vault for Olympic gold and called her performance "quite miraculous", a White House spokesman said.

Hollywood deal-makers tried to make contact after the modest Miss Strug confessed that she is the only member of the team not to have an agent. "Her ankle may ache, but that girl is worth millions," said a Manhattan-based agent who requested anonymity to safeguard his chances of signing her up.

He predicted that Miss Strug, whose face will surely

grace the front covers of countless magazines next week, would outsell the Princess of Wales in a face-to-face. The extraordinary excitement throughout America, which gave a collective whoop when she landed safely with her winning vault, made her the most saleable face in America. Cereal manufacturers will pay top dollar to put her on their cornflake packets. Toothpaste companies will kill for that pearly grin.

Her defiance of the ankle injury was so valiant — like a coyote biting off its leg to escape a trap. Her marketability was completed by her disclosure that, before making the painful final jump, she

whispered a short prayer to the Almighty. "I asked Him to help me out," said the small American wonder. Miss Strug's initial reaction was that she would resist some of the commercialisation. Ironically, she may pass on some of the endorsements. "I want to make sure I have my education," she said, referring to the place she has won at the University of California in Los Angeles.

The women's team's victory created such a fuss yesterday that it was as if the Iron Curtain had never been torn down. "Four decades of Russian dominance have ended," declared one headline. When it became clear that the Americans had won, NBC's television cameras swooped on the little Russian gymnasts and focused lengthily on their tears of disappointment.

The US national anthem may never have been sung more enthusiastically than it was by the 30,000 crowd during the medal ceremony.

Reports, pages 40-42, 44



Flooding leaves 12,000 homeless in Canada

FROM RICHARD CLEROUX IN OTTAWA

CANADA has been hit by its worst flooding in 42 years, leaving 12,000 people homeless and 12 dead after torrential downpours hit the Chicoutimi and Saguenay river area, 160 miles north of the city of Quebec.

A state of emergency was declared and 800 troops and 600 Red Cross volunteers were sent in to try to cope with the disaster. The federal and provincial governments have set aside \$200 million (\$100 million) in emergency aid, the most ever for a natural disaster in Canada. Food and clothing are coming in from across the country.

In two days as much rain fell in this heavily wooded area as usually falls in the whole summer. The problem at this time of year is normally forest fires, not flooding, which is usually associated with the spring thaw. Pleasant

trout streams turned into torrents and broke through one small water control dam after another, carrying away homes, roads, bridges, factories and churches.

A woman in nearby La Baie watched helplessly as a mudslide swallowed her home and her two young children who were inside. Five more people in a car disappeared under the waters as they tried to challenge the current across a country road.

About 3,000 homeless people have been taken to an air force base where a great tent city has sprung up. Airlines are offering free and reduced fares out of the area to those who have relations with whom they can stay elsewhere in Canada.

It is the worst natural disaster in Canada since 1954, when Hurricane Hazel devastated the city of Toronto.

THERE'S NO QUESTION ABOUT THE NEW ALFA ROMEO 146's PERFORMANCE. NOT SURPRISING AS IT'S POWERED BY OUR 2 LITRE, 16V, 150 BHP, TWIN SPARK ENGINE QUOTED BY CAR MAGAZINE AS BEING ONE OF THE FINEST FOUR CYLINDER ENGINES IN THE WORLD TODAY. THERE'S CERTAINLY NO DEBATE OVER ITS COMFORTABLE SPORTS SEATS, COCOONING CD SYSTEM, OR STATE OF THE ART SAFETY FEATURES - SIDE IMPACT BARS, ABS, DRIVER'S AIRBAG, ADVANCED FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM, BUT IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE THE ALFA 146H'S ON THE ROAD PRICE IS ONLY £15,919.88. (THE ALFA 146 RANGE STARTS FROM £12,630.55 ON THE ROAD.) AND WITH THE ALFA ROMEO PREFERENZA SCHEME YOU CAN HAVE A 146H FOR ONLY £250 PER MONTH (14.1% APR) - PLUS DEPOSIT AND FINAL PAYMENT. WHEN THE AGREEMENT PERIOD FINISHES EITHER RETURN THE CAR OR MAKE THE FINAL PAYMENT. FRANKLY, AFTER DRIVING THIS CAR YOU WON'T WANT TO HAND IT OVER. THE ONLY QUESTION IS WHETHER IT'S A FAMILY CAR OR A SPORTS CAR. RING 0800 718 000 FOR YOUR NEAREST DEALER. THEN DECIDE FOR YOURSELF.

ALFA 146^{16V}

SPORTS CAR OR FAMILY CAR? DEFINITELY.

3 YEAR WARRANTY

Internet: www.alfaromeo.com

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

The three were yesterday named as Aitor Fresnedo Guerricabeitia, alias Asterix, Carlos Emilio Cristóbal Martínez and María Aranzazu Garbayo. They are all aged between 20 and 30, and have

These attacks, it is now firmly believed, are being conducted by recent Eta recruits, of whom there is as yet

In an interview published yesterday in *France-Soir* newspaper, Roland Jacquard, head of the Paris-based International Terrorism Observatory, reported that the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), which admitted responsibility for the attacks, has asked *Eta* to provide it with training.

In a separate development, Jaime Mayor Oreja, the Spanish Interior Minister, announced plans to legislate for the installation of video cameras and surveillance equipment in public places in the Basque country, in an effort to combat street violence and politically motivated vandalism by radical youths in thrall to Eta.

Separated for 60 years, Mrs Feingold greets her brother, Solomon, yesterday after he flew back from Russia

**FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN JERUSALEM**

A BROTHER and sister have been reunited after 60 years during which each came to believe the other was dead.

Rivka Bromberg Feingold, now 79, spent 50 years thinking that all of her family had been murdered by the Nazis. She lost contact with them after emigrating from the family home in Poland to British-mandated Palestine in 1936.

When Mrs Feingold learnt that her parents had died in Treblinka concentration camp, she assumed the rest of her family had met the same fate. "We grew up thinking that we were alone," her granddaughter Sharon told the *Jerusalem* Post.

lem Post yesterday. Unknown to Mrs. Morgold, in the Russian town of Kazan, 100 miles from Moscow, her younger brother, Solomon, now 76, also spent most of his life convinced he was the sole remaining member of the Bromberg family.

All that ended on Tuesday with the arrival at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport of El Al Flight 612 from Moscow which brought him to Israel after what Sharon described as "a strange series of circumstances" enabled the two to meet again after research by the Jewish Agency.

It was prompted by Mr Bromberg's eldest son, Michael, who asked an employee with the Israeli telephone company, Bezeq, whom he met on a job in

Russia, to ask the Jerusalem-based organisation to try to trace family members. Weeks later the agency called Sharon Feingold and asked her if she knew anything about her grandmother's family. It was only then that it materialised that Mrs Feingold's brother was still alive and in Russia. Mrs Feingold telephoned her brother. "That phone conversation was incredibly emotional," Sharon recalled.

It was only then that Mrs Feingold discovered that Solomon and another brother, Avraham, had escaped to Russia as Poland fell to the Nazis. They were separated when Avraham was wounded in an explosion and taken to a Russian hospital. Solomon said this week that he had never seen his brother after that.

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

ESPIONAGE fiction and fact merged in Moscow yesterday when a Foreign Ministry official, who writes thrillers in his spare time and is the son of a former senior diplomat, was named as the alleged spy whose activities led to the expulsion of four British diplomats this year.

The weekly *Argumenty i Fakty* said that the suspected spy facing trial is Platon Obukhov, 28, an official in the North American Department of the Foreign Ministry. His father, Aleksei, was a former Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister and Ambassador to Denmark until this summer, when he resigned for health reasons.

Four British and four Russian diplomats were expelled from Moscow and London in the worst spy incident between Russia and the West since the end of the Cold War. At the time the British Embassy denied all knowledge of a sup-

posed British agent who was being interrogated in Lefortovo prison. The Foreign Ministry was keen to play down the incident and it seems that that was partly because one of its employees was the alleged agent involved.

Argumenty i Fakty said the FSB, the successor to the KGB, had followed Mr Obukhov and filmed him passing information to British Embassy staff. But he told his interrogators that he was gathering material for his latest spy novel.

Mr Obukhov, whose thrillers have included *The Embrace of the Spider*, has described how the Russian mafia cultivated links with British and American intelligence. The newspaper suggested that his next book should be called *Playing at Death* because that is the sentence he faces if he is convicted of treason.



prise after years of huge losses met by the French taxpayers. "We are meaning the end of the period of major restructuring and of the transition from state-dependent flag carriers to competitive airlines," he said.

Air France made an operating profit last year for the first time since 1989, but that was not enough to offset heavy costs incurred by its restructuring under Christian Blanc, its chairman. In its drive to turn itself from a branch of the state into a going concern, the airline is laying off 5,000 staff, with another 1,200 voluntary redundancies to come.

The Commission, nevertheless, is expecting a formal request from Italy for a £660 million injection of government cash into Alitalia.

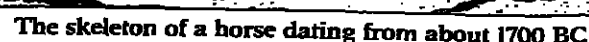
BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER
MIDDLE EAST
CORRESPONDENT

ARCHAEOLOGISTS working in Egypt's Sinai peninsula, which was handed back by Israel under the 1979 peace treaty, have unearthed the first physical evidence of a horse in Egypt.

The international team made the discovery as they began work on a pharaonic fort marking the start of ancient Egypt's road to the east. The horse dates from the Hyksos invasion of pharaonic Egypt in about 1700 BC and confirms pictures suggesting that the Hyksos, thought to be invaders from Asia, brought the first horses to the land of the Pharaohs.

"The horse as a war machine at the time was equivalent to the Scud missiles of today. Pharaonic Egypt was pretty powerful, so the Hyksos, who were few in number, had to have an original device to defeat them," said Muhammad Abdel Maqsood, the director of the expedition.

The fort on Horus's "Road of War", named for the Egyptian sun god, is one of 15 ancient forts that members of the North Sinai Archaeological Salvage Project have found in the area between Qantarah Sharq in the north and the east Sinai town of Rafah, on the border with the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip.



They date from the pharaonic, Graeco-Roman, Byzantine and Islamic periods, spanning 4,000 years of history.

"Horus's road was used by Egyptian armies going on expeditions to Syria, Palestine or Lebanon. Spearheads and axes were found as evidence of those expeditions," Mr Magwood said. Restoration of the road is part of a costly Egyptian scheme to promote tourism and industry along the remote north Sinai coast.

The wall surrounding the Qantarah fort is 50ft wide and will remain covered in sand so that the weather does not destroy it. Outside it lies the soldiers' barracks. A public bath within the ruins includes a footbath used by the soldiers after they returned to the relative security of the site. The footbath, which was filled with soothing oils, resembles

a round tub with carved niches for feet.

Each fort bears the marks of several civilisations as newcomers would inhabit and revive or build on an old fort. One built by Seti I in about 1200 BC, for example, was called Saru by the ancient Egyptians and Seyalla in the *Græco-Roman* period.

The discovery of the forts was the result of archaeological detective work which began in a hall of the temple of Karnak in Upper Egypt when a drawing of Seti's expedition to protect Egypt's eastern borders was uncovered by experts. The huge, 1,000-year-old drawing, more than 160m long, was at first believed to be imaginary.

Now archaeologists are trying to see if it can help them to find out if ancient forts in the

SHAKER - PLAIN & SIMPLE

FOR YOUR NEAREST SHOWROOM CALL FREE 0800 555 825.

OPENING TIMES: Mon-Sat 8.00-5.00. Selected branches open until 8.00 on Thursday and 10.00-4.00 on Sunday. Check each branch for details.

Search for details. TI 31

Magnet

Food for thought

23 JUL 1996

THE TIMES

2

INSIDE SECTION

2 TODAY



ECONOMICS

Janet Bush looks at a radical approach to welfare reforms
PAGE 27



ARTS

Michael Flatley lords it over Irish dance
PAGES 31-33



SPORT

Pakistan prepare to take on England at Lord's
PAGES 36-44

TELEVISION AND RADIO

PAGES 42, 43

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY JULY 25 1996

Appeal court rules Titan illegal

Investors face losses of at least £17m

By ROBERT MILLER

THOUSANDS of investors are believed to have lost at least £17 million after the Court of Appeal ruled that the Titan Business Club, a controversial money-making scheme, was illegal.

As many as 12,000 people had been recruited by Titan at "revivalist-style" meetings held in towns and cities around the country. They handed over between £2,500 and £3,000 to join the club. The new Titan members were then supposed to recruit their club joining fee by recruiting four or five other people.

The Department of Trade and Industry first applied to the courts in May to have Titan closed down. Earlier this month the department made a similar application with

regard to a new scheme, Titan International LLC, an American limited liability company.

In both cases the DTI alleged that the schemes were illegal lotteries and pyramid-selling schemes that were bound to fail eventually. Both the old and the new Titan schemes are the subject of High Court injunctions not to hold meetings or to recruit new members or to send money out of the country.

Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, ruled yesterday that such schemes are indeed illegal. He added: "They

involve those who set up, promote, purvey and administer the scheme in criminal offences. This I hope will deter those who may be tempted to create clones of Titan."

Lord Woolf, sitting with Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Saville upheld the earlier judgment of Sir Richard Scott, the Vice-Chancellor, who said that Titan was an "illegal lottery" and that SHV, the German administration company for the scheme, was "highly unsatisfactory, highly suspicious and thoroughly undesirable".

Lord Justice Millett said he had

great concern about "the certainty that the scheme will cause loss to a large number of people, and the longer the scheme is allowed to continue the greater the number of people who will inevitably suffer loss".

He continued: "The number of people who are sufficiently gullible to be persuaded to join may be very large but it is obviously finite; so is the amount of money which can be raised by a scheme of this kind. The scheme is bound to come to an end sooner or later. When it does most of its members will have lost their money. This is not merely likely; it is

a mathematical certainty." The judge estimated that at least 7,000 Titan members "must have lost all or some of their money".

Dec and Con Chuskey, members of the Bachelors, the 1960s group that had hits with *Diane* and *I Believe* and who are members of Titan, have been strongly critical of the DTI action. Dec's son Oliver recently signed up to the scheme, and his mother Sandy, who is not a Titan member, said yesterday: "It certainly looks like Oliver has lost his money. I've devoted my working life to Herbalife International."

Dec said: "I can't understand why the Tory-backed DTI is acting against Titan in this way. I am certainly tempted not to vote Conservative at the next election."

Charles Buckley, the lawyer acting for Titan, which is believed to have spent more than £1 million in legal fees to fight the DTI case, said: "We will fight, fight and fight. This is an invasive interference by the judiciary and the establishment in the rights and freedoms of citizens to spend their money as they wish, and in violation of Article 59 of the Maastricht treaty. It is also in violation of the Supreme Court of Bavaria's ruling that the scheme is not a lottery."

The DTI has sent a file to the Serious Fraud Office for a preliminary investigation.

FINANCIAL TODAY

FT-SE 100	3898.8	(-38.8)
Yield	4.13%	
FT-SE All share	1818.38	(-20.04)
Nikkei	20671.03	(-332.05)
Dow Jones	5378.14	(+28.59)
S&P Composite	638.88	(+2.01)
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	8 7/8%	(8 7/8%)
Yield	6.95%	(6.97%)
3-month Interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Life long gilt	10 1/8%	(10 1/8%)
Future (Sep)	108 1/2	(108 1/2)
New York		
Dollar	1.5628	(1.5628)
London	1.5542	(1.5509)
DM	2.3121	(2.3104)
FF	7.8214	(7.8200)
SF	1.2828	(1.2828)
Yen	167.87	(167.42)
£ Index	85.0	(84.8)
Tokyo close Yen	107.80	
Brent 15-day (Oct)	\$18.85	(\$18.85)
London close	\$384.45	(\$384.35)
* denotes midday trading price		

Standard sells BoS at discount

By GEORGE SIVELL

STANDARD LIFE, the Edinburgh insurer, has secured buyers for its 32 per cent stake in Bank of Scotland, according to sources close to the deal, but at a lower than expected price of 222p.

The stake, which was originally expected by the City to be sold at a premium to an expected bidder, ended up fetching less than the prevailing market price. Bank of Scotland shares closed up 1 1/2p at 232p before the result of the secondary offer was announced.

Advisers to the deal had been hoping for a price in the high 220s as recently as Tuesday evening. However, they maintained last night that the price achieved was reasonable given the weakening of the stock market in the past few weeks. The shares were 245p when the offer was announced.

Warmer weather gives boost to high street sales

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

SALES in Britain's high streets surged last month, helped by warm summer weather and an apparent boost to spending on alcohol during the Euro 96 football tournament.

Retail sales volumes jumped 1.3 per cent, the biggest rise in any month since January 1994. In addition, May's weak sales figure, thought to be related to unseasonably bad weather, was revised upwards 0.4 per cent, according to figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Together, this pushed the year-on-year rate from 2.4

per cent in May to 3.3 per cent in June, the highest annual rate since late 1994.

June's bounce was much bigger than the 0.8 per cent expected in the City and most economists are now convinced that there is no chance of another rate cut when Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, meets Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, next week for their monthly discussion on monetary policy.

The biggest gain in sales was in clothing and footwear, which jumped 5.6 per cent compared with May. The

ONS said that there was anecdotal evidence of strong off-licence sales and speculated that this was because of the Euro 96 event.

Slightly clouding this positive picture, however, was a 1.8 per cent fall in household goods sales that most economists thought would benefit from improved conditions in the housing market.

The Treasury hailed the figures as excellent and said that they confirmed that sales were on a firm upward trend, reflecting a growing mood of optimism among consumers.

Adam Cole, of HSBC James Capel, said that he expected retail sales to grow 3 per cent this year and 5 per cent in 1997. He said that unless second-quarter figures for gross domestic product were exceptionally weak, "any hopes of a rate cut at next week's monetary meeting evaporated with this data".

Michael Saunders, UK economist at Salomon Brothers, said that second-quarter GDP was more likely to show growth of 0.6 per cent than the 0.5 per cent previously estimated. He added: "Although the inflation outlook is very good for the next 18 months or so, the authorities do not need to cut interest rates to revive the economy."



A safe pair of hands: Sir Alastair Morton, left, with Robert Malpas yesterday

Malpas to take tunnel reins from Morton

By JONATHAN PEKIN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

ROBERT MALPAS was yesterday named as the successor to Sir Alastair Morton, who is to step down as the chairman of Eurotunnel in the autumn.

Mr Malpas, 68, who has been a non-executive director of Eurotunnel since 1987, will take over the post on a part-time basis when the company completes refinancing negotiations with its banks. He will work alongside Patrick Ponsolle, his full-time French counterpart.

City analysts said the downgrading of the British chairman's role completed a virtual French coup d'état at the top of the struggling company, with most of the key decision-making jobs passing into Gallic hands.

Mr Malpas, chairman of Cookson Group, has held executive posts at ICI, BP, and Powergen, which he left after a boardroom bust-up in 1990. But he is being seen in the City as a stop-gap "safe pair of hands" until the banks install a new younger chairman after Eurotunnel's financial future has been secured.

Sir Alastair said talks on a £9 billion restructuring agreement with the 225 banks continued, but conceded that some were proving reluctant to fall into line.

Pennings, page 25

Escom closure costs 850 jobs

By GEORGE SIVELL

AROUND 850 jobs are to be lost after receivers to Escom UK closed the chain of 156 computer stores in Britain when they failed to find a buyer. The news was broken to staff at the 113 stores and 43 concessions yesterday.

Deloitte and Touche, the receivers, were sent into Escom UK almost two weeks ago after Escom AG,

either only prepared to take on a small number of outlets or only want to purchase stocks.

Nick Dargan, who is handling the receivership at Deloitte, said: "It is disappointing that the business as a whole cannot be sold but, given the oversupply in the retail computer market and rapidly declining margins in the sector, it was always a possibility."

"We are continuing our discussion with a number of parties regarding the leasehold portfolio and others in respect of stock purchases to maximise recoveries from the company's assets."

Escom invested a total of £50 million in the UK. It acquired the leases on the stores from Thorn EM1 last year after the closure of the Rumbelows electrical goods chain, but soon ran into problems.

Escom UK closed 74 stores recently and made 40 head office staff redundant. Receivers went into the company after problems at the German parent meant it had insufficient funds to buy stocks.

Sears is in talks to sell its Hush Puppy chain to Styleo Barnett. Another 290 stores in Facia Footwear may be closed.

Page 24

the German parent group, filed for administration. Deloitte said yesterday that it had no choice but to close the British stores and seek buyers for the properties.

Deloitte said: "The decision has been made because of a lack of serious interest in purchasing the business as a going concern, disappointing trading results and the high costs of continuing to trade."

"Those parties who have expressed an interest are

Bank to step up supervision

By ROBERT MILLER

THE Bank of England yesterday unveiled far-reaching plans to recruit up to 50 frontline supervisors and increase spending by up to £8 million over the next three years to tighten the regulatory regime on the 500 banks it supervises.

The restructuring plans follow a nine-month study by Arthur Andersen, the accountancy, on how the Bank operates. The review was one of a series of recommendations made as part of the Board of Banking Supervision's inquiry into the £830 million Barings collapse.

Howard Davies, deputy governor of the Bank, said that the plans outlined in the *Review of*

Supervision, would also include recruiting extra staff to help to improve computer systems, employing more senior managers and a panel of "grey panthers" or recently retired senior bankers to report directly to Oliver Page, the deputy director of supervision and surveillance. At present the Bank spends about £34 million annually on banking supervision.

Mr Davies said: "We are confident that we will be at the leading edge of global best practice in banking supervision in all areas." He added, however, that the tough new supervisory regime, with bank

directors and senior managers being held more personally accountable for ensuring that their institutions are financially sound, did not mean that there would be no more bank failures.

The deputy governor said: "Banks are in business to take on risk. If they did not do so, there would be no point in having them." So banks will still fail, and we cannot pretend to have the ability to prevent that happening, nor should we do so."

Pennings, page 25
City Diary, page 27
The Old Lady's slip, page 27

Lonrho quits US coal talks

By CARL MORTIMORE AND OLIVER AUGUST

LONRHO has pulled out of talks to buy Costain's US coal interests just two days after the construction company asked investors to approve a controversial refinancing.

Duker Mining, the South African coalmining subsidiary of Lonrho, had been in exclusive talks to buy the Kentucky mining operations since it submitted a bid in May.

Duker is believed to have been expressing its reservations about the deal for some time and withdrew from negotiations late last week.

Costain said yesterday: "Since Costain's extraordinary general meeting on July 22,

the proposed purchaser has informed Costain that, in the context of its own business objectives, it has decided not to proceed."

The UK construction group is thought to have been seeking around £45 million for the American coalmines. However, the South African company was unable to justify the price after conducting its own investigations into the mines which are based in Kentucky.

Costain has been seeking a buyer for its US coal arm since the beginning of the year to reduce its high debt. On Monday, Costain secured shareholder approval for a

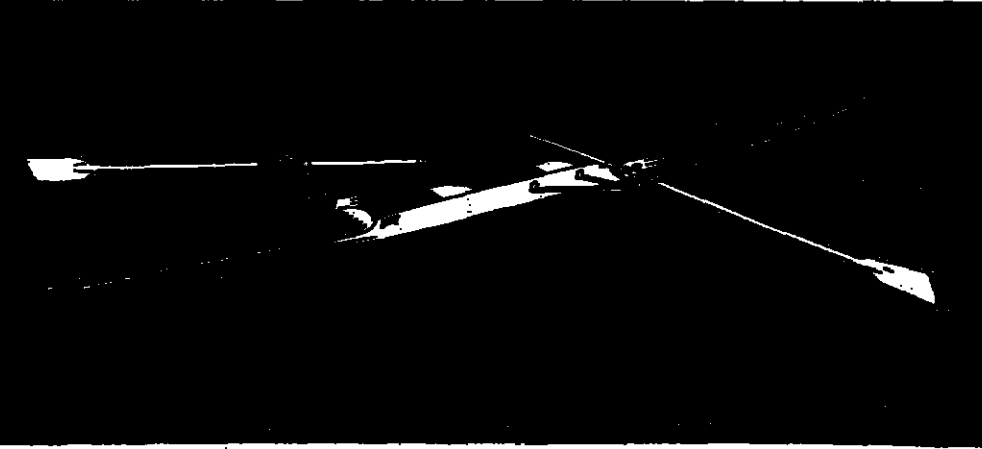
rescue cash injection from Intra Berhad, a Malaysian group. The refinancing, which involved the underwriting by Intra of a £73 million share offer, is expected to leave the Malaysians with 40 per cent of the company.

The deal aroused the opposition of a major shareholder, Khazafi, the Kuwaiti contractor which owns 19 per cent of Costain.

Duker has been expanding its coal interests since the 1993 purchase of Agipcoal in South Africa. Costain's Kentucky coal operations edged into profit last year.

Tempos, page 26

Delta passengers spend hours in cramped, uncomfortable seats.



We flew Britain's Olympic oarsmen to Atlanta to compete in the coxless pairs. In fact, we fly there non-stop three times a day; more than anybody else. **Delta Air Lines**

1. *Journal of Management Studies*, 1991, 28, 1, 1-15.

□ Bank looks for tougher supervision □ Countdown to crucial United vote □ Expecting a cut from the Bundesbank

The hidden culture of failure

□ BANK of England door bolts, their skills honed by 20 years of practice, now have detailed, foolproof plans to seal another empty stable, where the thoroughbred Barings once stood. The latest prescriptive report, drawn up by Arthur Andersen, was so expensive that the Bank's deputy governor repeatedly brought up its cost yesterday, while refusing to say how much that was.

Annual supervision costs should rise by up to 25 per cent, if the Bank can bring itself to recruit as many supervisors as Andersen wants. Similar re-organisations to beef up supervision, make it more systematic and bring in experienced outsiders followed the 1974 secondary bank crash, the Johnson Matthey Bankers affair and BCCI. This one, based on risk analysis, looks better than most. Bank directors know they must be able to defend the quality of their system objectively if they are to avoid losing power to a British SEC.

One fatal flaw remains. The Bank's ethos as a macroeconomic policymaker builds a culture of failure into its role as supervisor. Unlike other regulators, the Bank regards the occasional failure as useful *pour encourager les autres* and to make depositors more careful.

After the Barings crash Eddie

George, the Governor, told astonished Japanese bankers that failure was "an essential discipline on the banking system". The central bank had only one prevent such a collapse setting off a domino effect. Yet Barings swiftly pulled the rug from beneath other independent British investment banks, who gained most from traditional "judgmental" regulation.

Howard Davies, the new deputy governor, loyally supported the party line yesterday, arguing that it was wrong to adopt prevention of failure as a guideline for supervision. It would be possible to prevent all failures, he said, but that would negate banks' economic function as risk-takers.

As Mr Davies acknowledged, however, the new supervisory regime with its inbuilt quality control is bound to be judged by the number of bank failures. That is why, whenever a well-known bank crashes, there is the ritual political row, followed at the Bank by an investigation, an organisational shake-up and a change of personnel.

To maintain this contradiction

is intellectually effete and undermines the central bank's supervisory role. No one is sure if Threadneedle Street really takes the job seriously. That is why the Bank is distrusted even though Britain is relatively free from bank failures.

We shall find out more when the Bank publishes its regulatory objectives. If it wants to be an effective watchdog without being a nanny, the Bank's new supervisors should accord credit ratings to their charges, as recommended by Arthur Andersen, and publish them regularly. There was little sign yesterday that it was prepared to do either.

Funds must take a stand and deliver

□ TOMORROW marks a defining moment in British corporate governance, and any of those institutions tempted to tiptoe away from the United Utilities farrago rather than state their case deserve to be pilloried just as much as its greedy directors. The argument against such open shareholder revolts, and



the traditional City view, is that the hard work of bringing public companies to heel is better done behind closed doors, where no one but the participants knows just how bitter the acrimony is, rather than in public at the annual meeting. Public rows damage the share-price, and investing institutions and those whose money they are investing are the ones who suffer.

This assumes that the company keen to reward its executives with undue generosity is amenable to that sort of civilised debate. But United Utilities has shown itself unconcerned with the views of the City investors. That leaves only one course open to them, and their refusal to resort to the nuclear option would drastically

weaken their power in any subsequent confrontation.

No one, but no one, in the City has anything positive to say about United's long-term incentive plan, if you except the cooing of professional advisers whose views can be disregarded. The point has been made to the company time and again but the scheme, providing unacceptable rewards for nondescript performance, remains in place.

Now there are signs that a few institutions, a small number but perhaps enough to swing the vote in the board's favour, are going to abstain. They do not like the scheme, which allows bonuses to be paid even if United underperforms its clear competitors and even stacks these up on top of over-generous rises in basic pay. But they are unwilling to say so even in the relative privacy of the proxy vote.

There are only two verdicts possible on Friday, guilty or not guilty. The Greenbury rules, put in place a year ago, have been moving towards this moment ever since, when a company in clear contravention of them is ruled out of order by its ultimate

owners, the shareholders. Any abstention is an act of cowardice. United's arrogance should not go unpunished.

A round of German whist

□ BLACK Wednesday almost four years ago may have been tough on the British Treasury, but Frankfurt was equally traumatised. Ever since then Bundesbank officials have harboured a deep-seated aversion towards the currency markets because they cost the German central bank billions of marks through support operations for the pound.

Today an interest rate cut is expected in Frankfurt, but doubts will remain until it is formally announced. The Bundesbank blamed the ERM collapse at least partly on the dealers' rumour mill, so poker-faced officials set out never to be second-guessed again. On Tuesday Ernst Welteke, a Bundesbank council member, speculated in public about a rate cut. Based on recent experience, some dealers regard

this as a ploy to wrong-foot them yet again. So if the cut comes today they will have been fooled once more.

The best thing the currency markets can do is to ignore the Bundesbank's game and look at economic fundamentals. Germany's continued slow growth and low inflation figures present a classic scenario for cutting rates, even if this runs against trends elsewhere, in America and Japan, for a rise in interest rates. Last year's talk of a double-dip recession has now faded, but Germany is still facing near record postwar unemployment, while the strong mark has meant exports have suffered. A rate cut would seem the perfect antidote.

Child labour

□ "CHILD tipped for Eurotunnel chair" read an arresting if ill-informed headline in the weekend press. The infant in question was Denis Child, a Eurotunnel director aged, as it happens, 69. Instead the board, resisting an all-French takeover, has gone for a right bruiser in Robert Malpas. One of those executives who attract epithets like "combative" and "aggressive", he should prove a worthy successor to Sir Alastair Morton — providing the banks now in the driving seat allow him time to make his mark.

Reuters fails to impress on revenue

By ERIC REGULY

REUTERS, the financial information and trading group, disappointed shareholders yesterday with lower than expected revenue growth and lack of details about its long-promised plans to return cash to shareholders.

The company announced early this year that it was exploring ways of reducing its £850 million cash pile, which is growing by about £30 million a year.

Options included a share buyback, similar to the £350 million buyback in 1993, or a special dividend. Spending it on an acquisition was said to be unlikely.

Peter Job, chief executive, said: "We are continuing to study means of distributing cash to our shareholders and still expect to resolve the issue by the end of the year."

The City believes that negotiations with the Inland Revenue and the Internal Revenue Service in America — one third of Reuters shareholders are in the US — are moving

more slowly than the company had anticipated. Reuters reported pre-tax profits of £342 million, or 14.6p per share, in the half year to June 30, up 19 per cent on revenue that grew 11 per cent to £1.44 billion. But after discounting currency fluctuations, revenue was up only 8 per cent.

Jason Crisp, an analyst with Stauss Turnbull, said: "Investors wanted to see something more exciting." He had been predicting revenue growth of about 9½ per cent for the year.

Growth in information product sales was slow because of the continued consolidation among Reuters' clients. Transaction products, dominated by Instinet, the equities transaction system, defied the trend with a 28 per cent rise in revenues to £405 million.

Reuters is to pay an interim dividend of 2.75p, up 20 per cent. The shares closed at 703p, down 25p.

Tempus, page 26

Dairy Crest to get lower valuation

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

DAIRY CREST, the milk and cheese manufacturer, is heading for a lower than expected valuation at flotation of about £175 million. The company had hoped for a figure of £200 million to £250 million.

Impact day is July 31 and dealings are due to start on August 28. Dairy Crest is the former milk processing arm of the Milk Marketing Board and is indirectly owned by 29,000 dairy farmers, who are to receive 70 per cent of the 110 million shares. Institutions are to buy the rest.

Recent weakness in the new issue market has suggested that a big discount to comparable companies such as Northern Foods and Unigate will be required and 155p to 165p now looks the probable range. This would give a prospective dividend yield of around 7 per cent, which compares favourably with Northern Food and Unigate's 6 per cent.

Exchange to speed up reporting

By GEORGE SIVELL

THE London Stock Exchange is to increase the proportion of trades reported on its screens immediately after completion from 75 to 85 per cent. From October it will require publication of so-called protected trades immediately.

Also yesterday the Securities and Investments Board said the Treasury had accepted its advice that a new form of tax relief should replace stamp duty exemptions for market-makers, broker-dealers and market intermediaries. The rules also apply to TradePoint, the Stock Exchange rival.

Sir Andrew Large, SIB chairman, said: "We recognise that our proposals on stamp duty, together with the changes planned by the London Stock Exchange, will have significant effects." He said they would enhance liquidity for on-exchange transactions and provide for fairer competition among a wider range of intermediaries.

Stagecoach poised to push into Scandinavia

By FRASER NELSON

STAGECOACH, the UK bus and rail company, is poised to become the largest bus operator in Scandinavia after being selected as the preferred bidder for Swebus, Sweden's recently privatised bus operator.

The deal, expected to be worth between £110 and £120 million, will give Stagecoach a second foothold in Europe, adding operations in Finland, Norway and Denmark to a joint venture in Portugal.

The acquisition would add 3,500 buses to Stagecoach's worldwide fleet of 7,200. Swebus comes with guaran-

teed contracts from Swedish local authorities, which pay by bus miles per year irrespective of passenger levels. This forbids Stagecoach from controlling the scheduled service, but does guarantee a fixed revenue, with some contracts lasting over six years.

Stagecoach intends to target Sweden's recently deregulated long-haul express market, increase Swebus's share of the home market — currently 50 per cent — and develop the local networks in Finland and Norway. Stagecoach shares rose 17p to 455p.

It's not fair. After all, this is the first time you've heard of Energis. Isn't it? There is, says the smart Alec at this business meeting/convention/dinner party/pub, only one way to run

your communications these days. Perhaps you haven't met him yet, but you will. (The number of these people are as yet mercifully limited, at present only 49 of The Times Top

1000 companies work with Energis.) However, it is as well to be prepared. When one of these know-it-alls presumes to tell you: "Of course Energis is the most advanced

communications company in the world." Simply say "I know." When they say "It already has a national network." Say "I know." and when they say "It will invariably save your

company money." Say "I know." You could, if feeling particularly bullish, put the lid on it by saying you already have it under control. Couldn't you? 0800 316 2162.

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Wall Street guru gives London an anxious time

THE expected sell-off on Wall Street failed to materialise, enabling share prices in London to repair some of the early damage.

Elaine Garzarelli, the New York guru, was the prophet of doom that had investors on both sides of the Atlantic scurrying for cover after she predicted a massive 20 per cent correction in the Dow Jones average. Garzarelli has an established track record, having forecast the 1987 stock market crash. Institutional investors are inclined to hang on to her every word.

As a result, shares in London fell sharply, with the index tumbling almost 65 points at one stage in anticipation of Wall Street's reaction to her comments.

The Dow, in fact, responded with an opening fall of 76 points, but the clear absence of selling pressure on both sides of the Atlantic and the appearance of a few bargain-hunters, led to a sizeable rally.

The FT-SE 100 index eventually closed 39.6 points down at 3,668.8 in thin trading that saw less than 600 million shares change hands. The rally might have been better sustained had it not been for the latest sharp rise in retail sales reviving fears of growing inflationary pressures.

Shares of Suter, the electronics components group headed by David Abell, charged ahead 27p to 197p on learning of a bid approach from Ascor Holdings. Both sides are now in talks which could lead to an agreed offer being made, although it is almost certain that Ascor will have to turn to shareholders to ask for the money to finance the deal.

Last night City speculators said Ascor, down 3p at 361p, might be prepared to offer 220p a share, valuing Suter at £260 million. But a bid for Suter in any shape or form is likely to be bad news for one leading securities house. Gosip in the Square Mile claimed one market-maker is frantically trying to cover an open position after going short of the stock earlier this week.

British Steel consolidated Tuesday's rise, finishing just 1p lighter at 171p, after reporting that results in the first quarter were up to expectations. Sir Brian Moffatt, chairman, told shareholders at the annual meeting that selling prices of most steel products, especially stainless steel, were



Roger Fletcher, right, and Gavin James, finance director, at Menier-Swain's Banbury factory. The shares rose 25p

under pressure and were now trading at their lowest level for almost three years. But he was confident about prospects, with de-stocking pressures starting to ease.

Bid talk lifted Christian Salvesen 6p to a new high of 289p. The shares have come up from a low of 243p this year. Speculators say the company could soon find itself on

to maintain its market position in the equities and fixed income market. The development of the 3000 range of financial information systems will restrict revenue growth short-term, especially in the second half. That seems to have scuppered hopes that the group will embark on a share buy-back operation.

Better than expected first-

million to £525 million.

Yet another profit warning left Bullough, the engineering concern, 10p lower at a new four-year low of 86p.

A 12 per cent increase in full-year profits and encouraging remarks about prospects led Menier-Swain 25p to 270p. UBS, the company's own broker, is recommending the shares to clients and expects the group to lift profits in the current year to £15.6 million. Credit Lyonnais Laing also rates Menier-Swain, whose chief executive is Roger Fletcher, a buy. It says the fall in the share price ahead of the figures was overdue and they now look "extremely attractive". Ian Jermin at Laing is forecasting profits of £16 million.

Spargo Consulting, the computer systems services group, held steady at 157p after chipping in with pre-tax profits 17 per cent higher at £602,000.

Shares of Mosaic, the main vehicle of financier David Williams, were unchanged at 39p after reporting sharply reduced losses. The group's restructuring has now been completed leaving Williams time to concentrate on Waste Recycling, his other company, which, unwell figures, lost 17p to 170p. The shares finished up 1p at 171p.

□ GILT-EDGED: Bond prices closed near their best of the day after shuffling off a stronger than expected set of retail sales figures, indicating that inflationary pressures are continuing to grow.

Prices had opened better on the back of strong US treasury bonds overnight, before coming off the boil on the back of those retail sales. But the buyers would not be deterred and picked up stock at the longer end. Brokers said this boded well for today's auction of £1.5 billion of existing Treasury 8 per cent 2015.

In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt finished 1/4 better at £106.11 as a total of 57,000 contracts were completed.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was 1/4 better at 98 1/4, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was 1/4 better at 103 1/4.

□ NEW YORK: Shares on Wall Street were lifted by morning bargain-hunters and program buying. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 29.59 points higher at 5,376.14.

the receiving end of a bid from Hays, the rival business services group, 3p cheaper at 440p. At these levels, Salvesen is valued at £826 million.

Half-year figures from Reuters matched expectations, with pre-tax profits up from £288 million to £342 million, but there was a sting in the tail. The group says it will have to spend money in order

half figures from Lloyds Abbey caught the market on the hop and lifted the shares 9p to 536p. The final figure came in at £259 million compared with estimates ranging from £210 million to £220 million. Brokers have now begun upgrading their full-year estimates with the likes of Nikko, the Japanese securities house, increasing its forecast from £458

million cash injection. Costain can keep going. Costain has more than just a breathing space but the company still needs to find a buyer for its Kentucky coal business.

That search could now take a lot longer if Costain is wedded to achieving book value, upwards of £40 million. Costain's operations produce a mixture of high and low sulphur coal and considerable sums have been invested in improving productivity, with the result that Costain's coal business is now capable of achieving a profit.

However, others have found US coalmining a difficult and litigious sector, with a history of industrial unrest. Costain would clearly love to leave Kentucky and head East for the construction hotspots of South East Asia. But, like improbable relations, the Kentucky miners are proving difficult to ignore.

Edited by CLARKE MORTIMER

Edited by CLARKE MORTIMER

Edited by CLARKE MORTIMER

Edited by CLARKE MORTIMER

Edited by CLARKE MORTIMER

Edited by CLARKE MORTIMER

Edited by CLARKE MORTIMER

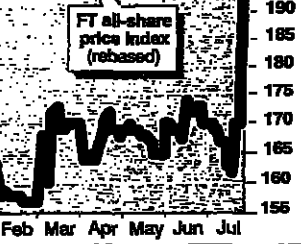
Edited by CLARKE MORTIMER

Edited by CLARKE MORTIMER

Edited by CLARKE MORTIMER

Edited by CLARKE MORTIMER

SUTER: SHARES SPARK ON BID APPROACH



Share price

FT all-share price index (rebased)

Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul

Share price

FT all-share price index (rebased)

Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul

Share price

FT all-share price index (rebased)

Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul

Share price

FT all-share price index (rebased)

Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul

Share price

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday): Dow Jones 5376.14 (+29.59) S&P Composite 638.88 (+2.01)

Tokyo: Nikkei Average 23631.03 (+532.66)

Hong Kong: Hang Seng 10699.86 (+105.45)

Amsterdam: EOE Index 512.80 (+12.61)

Sydney: AO 2113.0 (-22.1)

Frankfurt: DAX 2447.80 (+27.27)

Singapore: Straits 2137.13 (+32.34)

Brussels: General 9142.65 (+7.46)

Paris: CAC-40 1954.10 (+28.13)

Zurich: SFA GVA 732.90 (+22.60)

London: FT 30 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 3668.8 (-39.6)

FTSE Mid 250 3668.8 (-39.6)

FTSE-A 350 3668.8 (-39.6)

FTSE Europe 100 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT A-Share 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT Non Financials 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT Financials 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

FT 100 Index 3668.8 (-39.6)

RECENT ISSUES

Allzyme 48

Allied Carports 230

Alumax 1906 1/2

BATM Adv Cms 128

Belhaven Brewery 196

British Energy (100) 97

Digital Animations 80

Drings of Bath 4

Electronic Retail 148

Fayewood 51

Har Ptn 57

Home Govt 1000 C

Independent Bts 70

Life Numbers 15

Life Numbers 6

Lotteryking 4

Lotteryking Ws 14

NECA 18

Pace Micro (172) 176

Purdum Foods Ws 14

Quinn Eas & Dev 114

Selector 70

Templeton Cntrl 502

Therapeutic And 165

UNO 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

Watermark 13

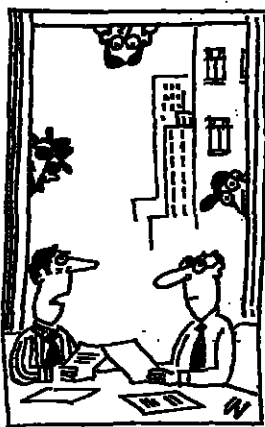
Watermark 13

THE TIMES
CITY DIARY

Bank feels the Andersen pinch

HOWARD DAVIES was in impish humour at yesterday's meeting to unveil plans for the new-look Bank of England. After introducing John Tiner, a senior partner at Arthur Andersen, who was in charge of the audit team that helped to compile the programme of change, the wily Deputy Governor called for questions from the floor. Speaking from a pulpit-like position, Davies slipped in the following warning: "In our experience, Arthur Andersen may well change for the answers that they give you."

PAUL TUCKER, head of the gilt-edged and money markets division at the Bank of England, will be the first to move as the result of yesterday's shake-up. Tucker, who was once private secretary to Robin Leigh-Pemberton, now Lord Kingsdown, will replace Clive Briault, who is moving to the supervision and surveillance area, as head of the monetary assessment and strategy division. But, unlike his cricket-crazy seniors, Tucker, 38, works too hard to take an interest in sport.



"New banking surveillance division - Bank of England"

Elephantine?

"HOW to turn the Elephant and Castle shopping centre into an Angel Delight advert and stay cool when the media question you," is the latest training course to be hosted by the BBC radio training department. The inspiration? Matthew Heath, managing director of The Brand Experience, the marketing outfit recently appointed by the Department of Environment to assess the money-making potential of Britain's national monuments. Apparently, Heath's first appearance on radio, only last week, went so well that the BBC immediately hired the man, who wants to turn the Lloyd's building into an advertisement for Corby Wurf, as a lecturer.

Sally out

EUROSTAR refused to allow Sally Ferries to distribute free travel passes at Waterloo station today. Eurostar took umbrage at the cross-Channel ferry company's decision to offer free travel to upstart commuters caught up in today's Underground strike. Instead, free travelcards to France and Belgium will be handed out at the main stations, including Victoria, Charing Cross, Liverpool Street, and Clapham Junction. Sally Ferries is also running a one-off duty-free offer for those commuters who choose to take the plunge.

If the shoe fits

KEN BARTLE, chief executive of Stead & Simpson, the footwear retailer that has just bought 39 Freeman Hardy Willis stores from Facia, has been boasting about past feuds. Between 1968 and 1978, Bartle ran Freeman Hardy, at the time when Sir Charles Clore ruled Sears with an iron glove. But things were different in those days, he says. "That was when they made money."

MORAG PRESTON

A welfare system reshaped by force of individualism

Giving more power to the consumer is the theme of a plethora of reform plans

When Kenneth Clarke dismissed his officials' musings on privatising the welfare state as the work of kids, he was betraying a visceral discomfort with radicalism. Here was yet another issue where there was clear red water between him and the right of his party.

The Chancellor is stubbornly wed to these issues, a defender of a half-way house position, between public and private provision. He made this position clear in his interview with *The Times* in May.

He argued that most of the people who advocate reform of the welfare state and public services "have done a lot less of it than I have". He cited his part in promoting market efficiencies in the health service, school league tables and Budget changes that moved more spending into family credit to support people in low-paid work: all aimed at creating a modern welfare state.

But he was scathing about those who would have Britain move towards an insurance-based system and claimed that he had persuaded Margaret Thatcher against introducing one. His *bête noir* is the American version, which he argues is crushingly expensive for the better-off and employers and fails to deliver basic services to the needy.

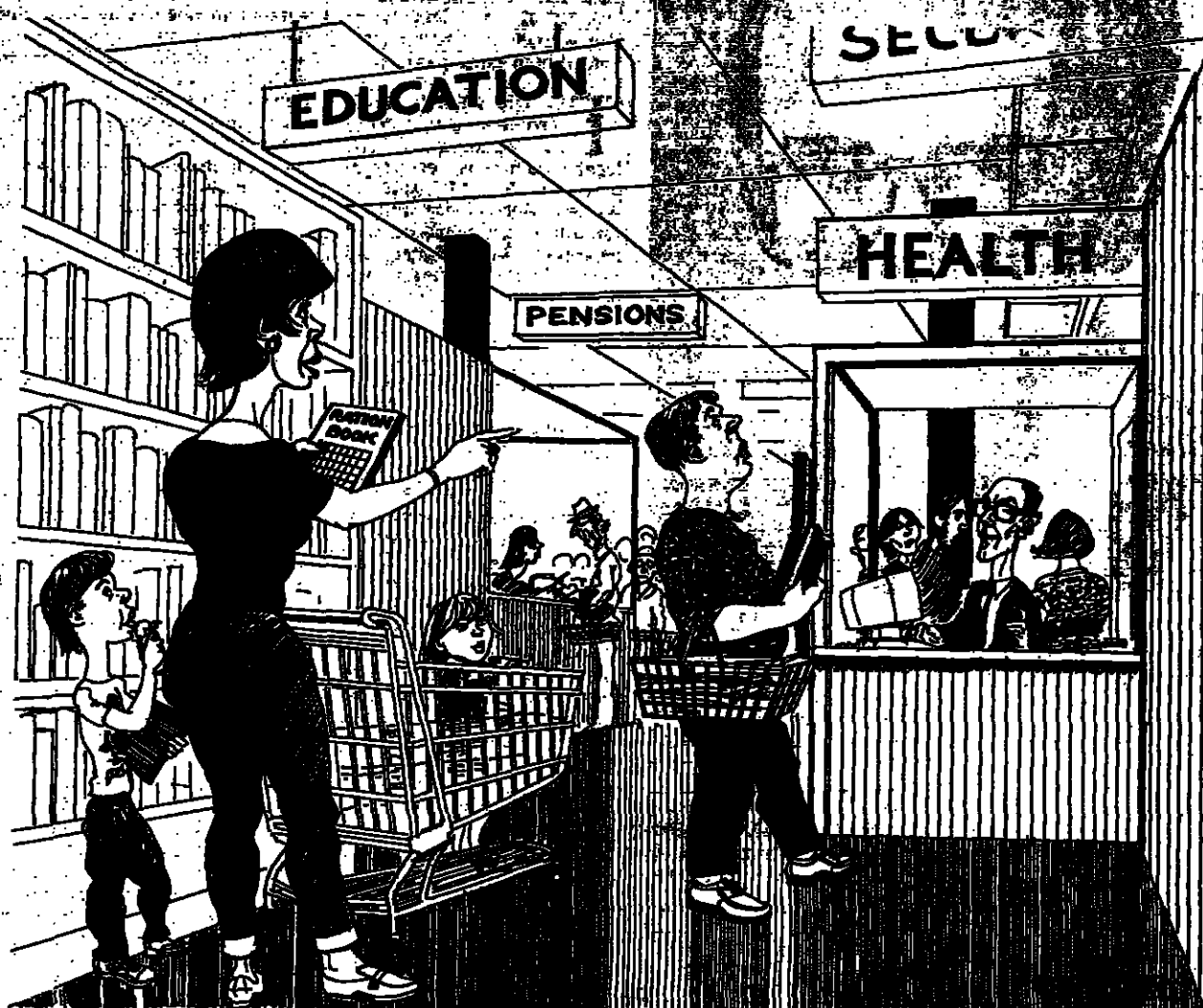
The American system of health care, and quite a lot of the American system of welfare generally, should be a warning to us all and should not be something to be emulated by the new right in this country.

He speaks for many people, many in the Labour Party, who distrust creeping privatisation of services and the welfare state. But, even in comparison with his counterpart in New Labour, Mr. Clarke is dyed in the wool.

After all, he placed himself to the left of Gordon Brown in defending child benefit for 16 to 18-year-olds.

Gordon Brown and his colleagues have clearly left far behind the ideology of the 1992 election, when they were still pledging to add money to the state pension. But their policies on reform of the welfare state, as so far articulated, fall far short of the radicalism preached by, among others, Frank Field, Labour chairman of the Commons Social Security Committee.

Labour has been globetrotting around social insurance fund models in Singapore and Australia but, certainly this side of an election, has



baulked at developing their explorations into policy. It has rejected Mr. Field's call for compulsory social insurance.

Peter Lilley, Secretary of State for Social Security, has not been terribly adventurous, even with the advantage of executive power. He has looked at numerous welfare-to-work strategies, including employment subsidies, as has Labour, but arguably his most substantial achievement at Social Security has been little more than targeting and slashing individual benefits. Were either parties not so close to an election, they might be braver.

In public, Mr. Lilley has attacked Labour's interest in social insurance schemes. In private, his officials have asked to piggy-back meetings set up by Frank Field's committee to study the systems in Chile and Argentina. The desire by both main parties to avoid scaring the wits out of an already insecure electorate is understandable, but it is important to understand that tinkering will not do.

There is the argument that public spending at 40 per cent plus of the economy is an unwanted drag on performance. Horrifying demographic statistics that show a dramatic worsening of dependency ratios as the population ages argue for action. Although some argue that these scare stories are overdone because the working population is enriching itself fast enough to bear the cost, there is little doubt that those countries with lower proportions of

public spending have been better performers.

But money is not the only issue. The system is riddled with disincentives. Frank Field is a passionate crusader against means-testing, a view Labour shares in principle - which now accounts for 36 per cent of all benefits, compared with 17 per cent in 1979. "The great drive by the Tories to push people on to means-tested assistance is the biggest ever British state-subsidy of idleness on self-improvement," he says. Means-testing encourages people to keep their aspirations at a low level or simply lie about their finances. The social security bill has kept rising in spite of the spread of means-testing, proof that trying to claw back money piecemeal from the existing system is not working.

Nor does the system reflect a society changed beyond recognition since the days of Beveridge. Both parties are trying to reify the relationship between taxes and benefits to reflect the breakdown of nuclear families but their ideas are far from tackling the different needs of a fluid society with a flexible labour market. Andrew Dobson, a former banker and architect of the Personal Welfare Plan (PWP), in a paper for the Centre for the Study of Financial Innovation (of which more later), points out that one of the main sources of anxiety from increased job mobility has been that access to "middle-class benefits" has often been part of the perks package of a particular job. It only compounds insecurity if these

benefits are lost with the job.

He, and others, argue for choice in the hands of the welfare consumer. If there is to be rationing, why not let the consumer make the decision rather than the Government or the local GP?

This might help to tackle the Government's complaint that consumers have ever-rising expectations of what should be on offer because they have no idea of what it costs. If consumers could see a transparent relationship between what they pay into the system and what benefits they get out, they are more likely to accept the need to make their contribution. And, it is argued, they will gradually move away from dependency on the state to an ethos of taking some responsibility for their futures.

Frank Field argues that a more personalised system may even make people more likely to pay more of their disposable income on public services and welfare insurance because they see the direct benefits. There is mistrust of the National Insurance system where government collects and allocates considerable pooled resources and yet, the perception is, public services remain inadequate and taxes have still been raised.

Mr. Field has an interesting spin on the current debate about the black hole in the Government's tax revenues. He believes that the shortfall is proof that the British people are already engaged in a tax revolt, using their ingenuity to avoid tax or taking advantage

of life in the black economy.

Giving more power to the welfare consumer is the leit-motif of a plethora of current proposals for reform from the private sector and academia, and from Mr. Field. In his clearly argued Personal Welfare Plan, Mr. Dobson proposes that Britain maintains a certain level of core benefits that are universal. But individuals then have the choice to build up a store of invested value in what he calls the PWP. This would be a personal fund, tax privileged like a pension fund or a Pep but available for a wide range of services, including education, health care, pension or other benefits: a ration book full of vouchers.

Largely as a matter of ideological choice, he would prefer that PWP's are voluntary. Clearly, he thinks that core benefits would eventually be set at an "uncomfortable" enough level to act, along with tax breaks, as a real incentive to consumers to go private.

Frank Field would progressively replace the means-tested system with compulsory, universal second-tier pensions and a compulsory new insurance system. Labour says it is with Mr. Field on a lot of his ideas. He has no idea whether something or nothing will happen if Labour wins.

But he warns: "The growth of individualism is not going to be arrested by talk about rebuilding the community. Welfare has to be shaped so that individual wishes can simultaneously promote new senses of community."

Unthinking the thinkable at the Treasury

Robin Marris offers a post mortem on last week's leaked document

Whatever the outcome for the beguiling and authors of last week's infamous "Treasury testament", the Treasury will have been left permanently changed.

The reactions of the current Chancellor and the Shadow Chancellor, who wrote in *The Times* yesterday, are remarkably similar. Behind Kenneth Clarke's allegedly "leapt" reaction surely lies his recent stated belief that the fundamental aim of economic policy (and hence the Treasury) is to raise living standards and provide secure employment for all the people.

If such aims were mentioned anywhere in the document (which I have not seen) they must have had so little emphasis that none of the many writers who claim to have read it noticed them.

And that is the due to the real significance of the document: not what it says but what it apparently leaves out. To describe it as "unthinking the thinkable" is quite wrong. What, in fact, it does, by gross omission, is unthink the thinkable.

More precisely, it completely refuses to ask what things, for the nation, are desirable, as opposed to which currently fashionable gimmicks are feasible. Of course, that is always the Civil Service way. They argue that the electorate and Parliament are constitutionally responsible for objectives. They merely report on practicalities. But by choosing the agenda, they pre-empt the whole thing.

So, what does the "testament" leave out? One could start with the choice passage uncovered by Anatole Kaletsky (*The Times*, June 18). This says that Treasury officials have (or should have, it isn't clear) a strong belief in the efficiency of free markets, in "neo-classical welfare economics", and utilitarian ethics.

Here is crashing error number one. Jeremy Bentham, who invented utilitarianism, believed that public policy should aim for the greatest good of the greatest number. This can only mean an average of personal living standards, weighted in favour of lower earners to take account of the obvious fact that an extra £1000 a year means much more to someone earning £5000 a year than someone earning £100,000.

But the "neo-classical" economics of which the document speaks completely denies that approach. It is based on Bentham (circa 1800) but on Vilfredo Pareto, the great Italian economist and sociologist (circa 1900)

who claimed that it was impossible to compare the economic well-being of one person with another. The only circumstances in which public policy could be said to improve society would be those when everyone was made better off, or not worse off.

Although there is major reaction in progress, this approach still dominates much of contemporary political economy (including Nobel prizes). It virtually prevents the application of economics to most of the major problems of today.

For example, in a recent Gallup poll, no fewer than 85 per cent of people said that they were concerned about an "underclass" emerging in Britain. The proportion who believed that lack of individual effort was the main reason for poverty has fallen to only one in seven, compared with one in three a decade ago.

Why does the Treasury 'testament' not consider the implications of these voters' opinions? The answer is because neo-classical welfare economics

puts the question off-limits. The adverse consequences are far reaching. The Treasury has emerged as a powerful *de facto* ministry of economic affairs

whose political strength derives from *de jure* control of not only public finance but also monetary policy. I am not necessarily opposed to the concentration of power, for experience shows that it is difficult for an economics ministry without operational responsibilities to have the clout it should have.

So, the Treasury is effectively responsible for the whole macroeconomy in the short and long term. What is the fundamental long-term macroeconomic issue of today? It is not the welfare state. It is (as both Kenneth Clarke and Gordon Brown patently understand) the macroeconomic situation that is causing the increased cost of the social security safety net.

And what is the cause of the cause? Insufficient economic growth. And where in the "testament" is that discussed at all? Apparently nowhere. It is not so much like Hamlet without the Prince as like a bath without water. All this gives ample excuse for Mr. Brown to reform the Treasury. It would be astonishing if Mr. Clarke didn't feel the same.

Robin Marris's book, *How to Save the Underclass*, will be published by Macmillan in the autumn. Hardback £35, ISBN 0333669495; paperback £12.99, ISBN 0333669509.

Bank of England accepts need for greater openness after Barings scandal

When the Old Lady's slip starts to show...

It is clear now that when the Bank of England took the unusual step on Monday of releasing a private letter day of releasing a private letter about inadequate internal banking controls that it was getting in some early practice for what followed yesterday. The Bank says that from now on the days of secrecy are gone and that openness will be the order of the day.

There have been countless reorganisations and restructuring in the Bank's 302-year history. Many were triggered by previous banking scandals, such as Johnson Matthey and the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, just as yesterday's was prompted by the Barings crash. But the Arthur Andersen report - *Findings and recommendations of the review of Supervision and Surveillance* - is, in the words of one senior insider, "like laying bare our innermost workings".

The Arthur Andersen report presented to the Bank's steering committee, chaired by Howard Davies, the deputy governor, has been accepted in full. The seven key themes which underpin the findings

and recommendations are summarised by the accounting firm thus:

□ Maintain the Bank's supervisory style, where supervisors exercise informed judgment within approved standards and guidelines.

□ Link the standards and processes of supervision more explicitly to the objectives of supervision and promulgate those objectives more widely.

□ Establish a systematic approach to the supervision process, including a formal periodic risk assessment of each institution.

□ Enhance the effectiveness of the existing supervisory tools, in particular prudential information and reporting accountants' reports.

□ Make more effective use of information technology to capture, manage, analyse and present the wide range of supervisory information.

□ Upgrade the experience and skills of supervision and supervisory (S&S) staff through, inter alia, increased training based on a core curriculum and the recruitment of more people with specialist knowledge or skills.

□ Implement quality assurance throughout S&S to ensure standards are being adhered to and to foster the spread of best practice.



Michael Foot, left, the Bank's director of banking supervision, with Howard Davies

sure standards are being adhered to and to foster the spread of best practice. In its report last year into the collapse of Barings, the Board of Banking Supervision, an independent arm of the Bank, recommended that the Bank should establish an overarching quality assurance

function. The new quality control mechanisms are aimed not just at improving the Bank's own surveillance and supervisory roles. They are just as much about telling the 500 banks authorised to take deposits or do business in the UK that their watchdog is keeping a close eye on them.

restructuring plan, says: "To emphasise the importance of maintaining effective internal controls, the executive officer and the chief financial officer might be asked to submit an annual statement to the Bank of their opinion as to whether effective internal controls have been maintained and whether Banking Act requirements and policy guidelines have been complied with."

Professionals, such as external auditors, are also expected to take clearer responsibility for the figures they compile on behalf of clients. The report states that subject to guidance from the Auditing Practices Board, auditors might be asked for a statement attesting to the effectiveness of the bank's internal controls.

The prudential meetings that the Bank holds with its charges, described as "an important part of the supervisory process" will be "more focused and challenging". The Bank considers that "one important response is to strengthen, through further training, the technical, interviewing and presentational skills of some supervisors. A more effective risk assessment process

should improve the structure of these meetings."

Information technology (IT) will also play a key part in the Bank's new supervisory regime. Arthur Andersen said: "There is no strategic vision for S&S and the consequences have been fragmentation in systems development and sub-optimal information management. These factors, together with a shortage of proper training, has led to a user population who are dubious of the benefits of IT and fight shy of its use."

The Bank said it will detail a new IT strategy "likely to involve substantial additional spending over the next five years and will be accompanied by extensive retraining for all relevant staff". But perhaps the most fundamental change signalled by the Bank yesterday is the one least documented. It is the acceptance that for too long the Bank of England has been seen as the secretive Old Lady of Threadneedle Street who never gave even a glimpse of her petticoat, let alone her ankle. Now she wants everyone to be aware that the Bank is alive and kicking and has sharp nails.

ACCOUNTANCY

Tax transparency on pensions

A change in rules could bring funds to Britain, Roger Leslie argues

An important step forward for the UK fund management industry took place last month and could lead to a substantial inflow of funds into the UK.

The Inland Revenue approved regulations that seek to tackle one of the longest-standing administrative burdens faced by multinational companies — their inability to pool the assets of pension funds in different countries without incurring additional tax costs. Until now, they have had the thankless task of operating the funds in separate countries rather than enjoying economies of scale. The pension fund pooling vehicle (PFV) could change all that for the better.

To understand the need for a PFV we have to outline the problem it seeks to solve. For years, multinational companies reluctantly accepted the cost and inconvenience of their pension fund administration. Then, in 1992, several interested parties started the ball rolling on pooling. Ashurst Morris Crisp, the firm of lawyers, and Watson Wyatt, the firm of actuaries, began discussions with the Revenue and Customs and Excise. Ernst & Young, became involved later. On June 19 this year, a Revenue press release and three sets of regulations

gave detailed rules for pooled investment funds.

In most countries, the assets of approved pension schemes generate tax-free income and gains in their own jurisdiction. A UK pension scheme investing in UK stocks and shares can reclaim any UK taxes deducted on dividends and interest. If that same scheme invests in Australia it may be possible to reclaim any Australian tax deducted on dividends and interest, depending on the terms of the tax treaty between the two countries.

In the case of multinationals, there may be pension schemes in a dozen or more countries. Ideally, each scheme wants to recover as much tax as possible. While this can be time-consuming, most multinationals have developed systems to accelerate the tax reclaim.

The status quo for such multinationals is to have pension schemes managed and administered on a country-by-country basis. Within each country, it may well be possible for a scheme to invest in a pooling arrangement. In the UK, the obvious pooling arrangement is the exempt unit trust, but this is open only to UK schemes.

A multinational ideally wants to pool the assets of its worldwide pension funds. Such a pooling arrangement



Roger Leslie backs pension fund pooling arrangements

should save management and administration costs. It seems an obvious arrangement for a multinational and rather begs a question as to why there are very few such arrangements.

The answer is that the pooling arrangement itself becomes a separate taxable entity. That introduces another layer of tax and the need to

tax authorities are concerned, it has no UK taxable presence and is completely see-through.

The significance of this is the removal of the additional tax layer otherwise introduced by a pooling vehicle. Once that is achieved, the multinational is looking at cost savings in management and administration without extra tax costs.

The UK solution seems obvious and is a genuine achievement. The legal structure is very much due to John Watson, of Ashurst Morris Crisp, and the UK and international pension aspects to Ian Skinner and Susan Douse, of Watson Wyatt. The Revenue and Customs must take credit for the serious attempt to promote the UK as a place for pension assets.

Ernst & Young's involvement is to try to persuade tax authorities worldwide to accept the tax transparency of the PFV. There is a precedent of sorts, in the US Common Trust Fund, which is accepted as tax transparent by tax authorities in several countries. Nevertheless, our task will take time, as will the ongoing legal and international pension issues, so we will not see a PFV up and running this year. The combination of the tax transparent structure and the UK investment management industry may well result in a very substantial inflow of funds in to the UK.

The author is a tax partner in the UK Investment Management Group of Ernst & Young

The missing figure in balance sheets

COMPANIES embrace the use of derivatives. They are the great and safe way of covering yourself against risk. They are complex. They have moved in 15 years from being rocket science to commonplace. And they can be used without anyone having the slightest idea that the company is using them. Even the owners of a company, the shareholders, may not have an inkling of whether their company has quietly restructured its asset base into a shadow company standing behind the public one.

What derivatives are known for are disasters. And these have been based on great and enduring human failings. If Charles Dickens were alive today, he would be writing sagas with derivatives at their heart.

There is something about derivatives that takes away the link between someone's actions and their instinct for commonsense. When Japan Airlines lost £1.1 billion in 1994, it lost it on a technique which could not, in any circumstances, have achieved what was intended. It was the disaster was not down to complexity. It was down to a simple suspension of commonsense.

Other companies find other ways of doing it. You can mix a combination of deception and an uncomprehending and inept management and end up with a Barings-style disaster.

There are two problems here. First, derivatives and their use are obviously seductive. There comes a time when a "what if" light comes on in someone's head. This is similar to your emotions on hearing which horse has won the Grand National. It seems obvious that that was the one you would have chosen. The "what if" line of thought allows someone to see that a particular bet, for example on a currency movement which has turned out, with hindsight again, to have been obvious, would have brought in several million. "It could have been us", thinks a normally level-headed chief of treasury.

Then another step is taken in the logic. This profit can be made without all the usual mind-numbing processes of squeezing more from your business. To make a few million through financial instruments does not involve changing the culture in customer care or a four-year programme installing software to bring your global systems into line. Profits can be lifted without much more than the equivalent of a stroll to the local betting shop. No wonder people find it seductive. It takes great courage for a chief executive to tell the

treasury department that derivatives and similar instruments can be used only for their original purpose: not for what amounts, in spite of financial jargon, to a bit of a flutter.

The second problem is risk. Risk management has been a key technique sold over the past five years by management consultants. Every company with any pretensions to serious growth has had people crawling all over it facilitating or installing risk management programmes rigorously throughout the business. They will be expert in knowing how to manage business risk in everything from fraud to commodity pricing. Yet somehow derivatives escape from this risk-averse net. This is probably because they are sold as being risk-free and, in some cases, cost-free. It can seem like magic. But, until now, no one has had any way of knowing how much magic a company is using. It was a reasonable assumption that any company of a decent size was. But you would never know it from their accounts. As the Accounting Standards Board said last week: "The first concern about present accounting and disclosure practices is that many derivatives are not shown in the accounts at all. Indeed, one can read the accounts of some entities from cover to cover and not know that a single derivative has been used. Nevertheless, derivatives may be substantial assets and liabilities for the entity and have transformed its risk profile, in some cases exposing it to large risks."

Stand back from that statement and think about it. All the interested parties in the financial reporting world — users, preparers, analysts, finance directors and investors — have spent years arguing themselves into cul-de-sacs about any number of abstract points. And with the publication yesterday of an international discussion paper on leases are about to do so again.

At the drop of a hat, people will argue about historical costs, about rules versus principles, or the number of accounting angels atop a corporate pin. Yet a much greater problem lurks, completely unseen, behind the accounts of most of the household names in the country. To say it is extraordinary is an understatement. That is why the need to put the new guidance on disclosure into voluntary practice immediately is so important. And why the discussions of the accounting angles should be treated as urgent.



ROBERT BRUCE

Out and about with Wadia

JIM WADIA, managing partner at Arthur Andersen, is famous for his empty desk. Often the most clutter he has on it is a paper cup of water. And, according to a new management tome, the policy extends wider in the business. In *The Success Culture*, by Malcolm and Lesley Munroe-Faure, Wadia is quoted as one of the gurus of our time. Perhaps the best advice he

hands down is that "it is more fun meeting clients than being in internal meetings and discussing management controls". With the consulting arm, Andersen Consulting, in the throes of one of its periodic efforts to flee the Andersen's coop you can see what Wadia is getting at.

IT HAS always been argued that one of the barriers that

stops more women becoming partners in accountancy firms is pregnancy. Price Waterhouse obviously takes this seriously. It has started weekly pre-natal aerobic classes in its London headquarters.

Carpet CAP

EVEN accountancy firms are wondering about becoming

Euro-sceptics. Baker Tilly, in its latest bulletin, reports on calculations made by Cavalier Carpets in Blackburn, based on the annual cost of the common agricultural policy. The company reckons it would be cheaper to cover every square inch of the European Union with best-quality carpet. Who said that accountants do not come up with useful financial information.

Wider net

THIS Internet stuff is getting out of hand. Coopers & Lybrand claims that it gets some 250,000 "hits" every month on its web site. They cannot surely all be after the renowned cricket information and the cartoons. So Coopers has expanded it. You can now check its code of best practice in auditing, for example. That should pull them in. Sample it on <http://www.coopers.co.uk>

ROBERT BRUCE

THE LEADING 100 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM CRICKET GAME

Pos.	Team (Player's name)	Pts	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120	130	140	150	160	170	180	190	200
1	Essex (Giles)	1231	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
2	Essex (Giles)	1180	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22
3	Essex (Giles)	1180	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22
4	Essex (Giles)	1180	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22
5	Essex (Giles)	1180	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22
6	Essex (Giles)	1180	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22
7	Essex (Giles)	1180	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22
8	Essex (Giles)	1180	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22
9	Essex (Giles)	1180	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22
10	Essex (Giles)	1180	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22

INTERACTIVE TEAM CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Player (No)	Runs	Wickets	Total
Batmen (001-135)			
C. J. Adams (001)	1151 (120)	0	1151 (120)
D. J. Adams (002)	395 (09)	0	395 (09)
M. Atherton (003)	600 (82)	0	600 (82)
C. W. J. Atherton (004)	438 (09)	0	438 (09)
R. Bailey (005)	745 (104)	10	745 (104)
M. Barnett (006)	1152 (18)	0	1152 (18)
M. Barnett (007)	1152 (18)	0	1152 (18)
D. J. Bates (008)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (009)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (010)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (011)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (012)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (013)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (014)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (015)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (016)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (017)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (018)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (019)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (020)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (021)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (022)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (023)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (024)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (025)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (026)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (027)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (028)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (029)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (030)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (031)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (032)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (033)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (034)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (035)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (036)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (037)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (038)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (039)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (040)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (041)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (042)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (043)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (044)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (045)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (046)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (047)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (048)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (049)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (050)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (051)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (052)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (053)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (054)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (055)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (056)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (057)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (058)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (059)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (060)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (061)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (062)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (063)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (064)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (065)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (066)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (067)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (068)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (069)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (070)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (071)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (072)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (073)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (074)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (075)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (076)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (077)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (078)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (079)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (080)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (081)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (082)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (083)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (084)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (085)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (086)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (087)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (088)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (089)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (090)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (091)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (092)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (093)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (094)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (095)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (096)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (097)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (098)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (099)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (100)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (101)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (102)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (103)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (104)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (105)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (106)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (107)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (108)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (109)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (110)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (111)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (112)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (113)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (114)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (115)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (116)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (117)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (118)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (119)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (120)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (121)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (122)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (123)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (124)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (125)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (126)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (127)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (128)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (129)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (130)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (131)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (132)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (133)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (134)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (135)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (136)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (137)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (138)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (139)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (140)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (141)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (142)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (143)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (144)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (145)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)
D. Bates (146)	525 (08)	13	525 (08)

150

Equities rally after early falls

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
120.00	119.50	Guinness	119.75	+0.25	+0.21	18.5
115.00	114.50	Harvey's	114.75	+0.25	+0.22	15.2
110.00	109.50	Black & White	109.75	+0.25	+0.23	14.8
105.00	104.50	James Watson	104.75	+0.25	+0.24	13.5
100.00	99.50	James Watson	99.75	+0.25	+0.25	12.8

BANKS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
120.00	119.50	Guinness	119.75	+0.25	+0.21	18.5
115.00	114.50	Harvey's	114.75	+0.25	+0.22	15.2
110.00	109.50	Black & White	109.75	+0.25	+0.23	14.8
105.00	104.50	James Watson	104.75	+0.25	+0.24	13.5
100.00	99.50	James Watson	99.75	+0.25	+0.25	12.8

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
120.00	119.50	Guinness	119.75	+0.25	+0.21	18.5
115.00	114.50	Harvey's	114.75	+0.25	+0.22	15.2
110.00	109.50	Black & White	109.75	+0.25	+0.23	14.8
105.00	104.50	James Watson	104.75	+0.25	+0.24	13.5
100.00	99.50	James Watson	99.75	+0.25	+0.25	12.8

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
120.00	119.50	Guinness	119.75	+0.25	+0.21	18.5
115.00	114.50	Harvey's	114.75	+0.25	+0.22	15.2
110.00	109.50	Black & White	109.75	+0.25	+0.23	14.8
105.00	104.50	James Watson	104.75	+0.25	+0.24	13.5
100.00	99.50	James Watson	99.75	+0.25	+0.25	12.8

BUILDING MATERIALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
120.00	119.50	Guinness	119.75	+0.25	+0.21	18.5
115.00	114.50	Harvey's	114.75	+0.25	+0.22	15.2
110.00	109.50	Black & White	109.75	+0.25	+0.23	14.8
105.00	104.50	James Watson	104.75	+0.25	+0.24	13.5
100.00	99.50	James Watson	99.75	+0.25	+0.25	12.8

CHEMICALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
120.00	119.50	Guinness	119.75	+0.25	+0.21	18.5
115.00	114.50	Harvey's	114.75	+0.25	+0.22	15.2
110.00	109.50	Black & White	109.75	+0.25	+0.23	14.8
105.00	104.50	James Watson	104.75	+0.25	+0.24	13.5
100.00	99.50	James Watson	99.75	+0.25	+0.25	12.8

DISTRIBUTORS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
120.00	119.50	Guinness	119.75	+0.25	+0.21	18.5
115.00	114.50	Harvey's	114.75	+0.25	+0.22	15.2
110.00	109.50	Black & White	109.75	+0.25	+0.23	14.8
105.00	104.50	James Watson	104.75	+0.25	+0.24	13.5
100.00	99.50	James Watson	99.75	+0.25	+0.25	12.8

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
120.00	119.50	Guinness	119.75	+0.25	+0.21	18.5
115.00	114.50	Harvey's	114.75	+0.25	+0.22	15.2
110.00	109.50	Black & White	109.75	+0.25	+0.23	14.8
105.00	104.50	James Watson	104.75	+0.25	+0.24	13.5
100.00	99.50	James Watson	99.75	+0.25	+0.25	12.8

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
120.00	119.50	Guinness	119.75	+0.25	+0.21	18.5
115.00	114.50	Harvey's	114.75	+0.25	+0.22	15.2
110.00	109.50	Black & White	109.75	+0.25	+0.23	14.8
105.00	104.50	James Watson	104.75	+0.25	+0.24	13.5
100.00	99.50	James Watson	99.75	+0.25	+0.25	12.8

HEALTHCARE

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
120.00	119.50	Guinness	119.75	+0.25	+0.21	18.5
115.00	114.50	Harvey's	114.75	+0.25	+0.22	15.2
110.00	109.50	Black & White	109.75	+0.25	+0.23	14.8
105.00	104.50	James Watson	104.75	+0.25	+0.24	13.5
100.00	99.50	James Watson	99.75	+0.25	+0.25	12.8

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
120.00	119.50	Guinness	119.75	+0.25	+0.21	18.5
115.00	114.50	Harvey's	114.75	+0.25	+0.22	15.2
110.00	109.50	Black & White	109.75	+0.25	+0.23	14.8
105.00	104.50	James Watson	104.75	+0.25	+0.24	13.5
100.00	99.50	James Watson	99.75	+0.25	+0.25	12.8

INSURANCE

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
120.00	119.50	Guinness	119.75	+0.25	+0.21	18.5
115.00	114.50	Harvey's	114.75	+0.25	+0.22	15.2
110.00	109.50	Black & White	109.75	+0.25	+0.23	14.8
105.00	104.50	James Watson	104.75	+0.25	+0.24	13.5
100.00	99.50	James Watson	99.75	+0.25	+0.25	12.8

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
120.00	119.50	Guinness	119.75	+0.25	+0.21	18.5
115.00	114.50	Harvey's	114.75	+0.25	+0.22	15.2
110.00	109.50	Black & White	109.75	+0.25	+0.23	14.8
105.00	104.50	James Watson	104.75	+0.25	+0.24	13.5
100.00	99.50	James Watson	99.75	+0.25	+0.25	12.8

LEISURE & HOTELS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
120.00	119.50	Guinness	119.75	+0.25	+0.21	18.5
115.00	114.50	Harvey's	114.75	+0.25	+0.22	15.2
110.00	109.50	Black & White	109.75	+0.25	+0.23	14.8
105.00	104.50	James Watson	104.75	+0.25	+0.24	13.5
100.00	99.50	James Watson	99.75	+0.25	+0.25	12.8

MINING

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
120.00	119.50	Guinness	119.75	+0.25	+0.21	18.5
115.00	114.50	Harvey's	114.75	+0.25	+0.22	15.2
110.00	109.50	Black & White	109.75	+0.25	+0.23	14.8
105.00	104.50	James Watson	104.75	+0.25	+0.24	13.5
100.00	99.50	James Watson	99.75	+0.25	+0.25	12.8

PHARMACEUTICALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
120.00	119.50	Guinness	119.75	+0.25	+0.21	18.5
115.00	114.50	Harvey's	114.75	+0.25	+0.22	15.2
110.00	109.50	Black & White	109.75	+0.25	+0.23	14.8
105.00	104.50	James Watson	104.75	+0.25	+0.24	13.5
100.00	99.50	James Watson	99.75	+0.25	+0.25	12.8

PRINTING & PAPER

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
120.00	119.50	Guinness	119.75	+0.25	+0.21	18.5
115.00	114.50	Harvey's	114.75	+0.25	+0.22	15.2
110.00	109.50	Black & White	109.75	+0.25	+0.23	14.8
105.00	104.50	James Watson	104.75	+0.25	+0.24	13.5
100.00	99.50	James Watson	99.75	+0.25	+0.25	12.8

PROPERTY

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
120.00	119.50	Guinness	119.75	+0.25	+0.21	18.5
115.00	114.50	Harvey's	114.75	+0.25	+0.22	15.2
110.00	109.50	Black & White	109.75	+0.25	+0.23	14.8
105.00	104.50	James Watson	104.75	+0.25	+0.24	13.5
100.00	99.50	James Watson	99.75	+0.25	+0.25	12.8

RETAILERS, FOOD


High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
120.00	119.50	Guinness	119.75	+0.25	+0.21	18.5
115.00	114.50	Harvey's	114.75	+0.25	+0.22	15.2
110.00	109.50	Black & White	109.75	+0.25	+0.23	14.8
105.00	104.50	James Watson	104.75	+0.25	+0.24	13.5
100.00	99.50	James Watson	99.75	+0.25	+0.25	12.8

RETAILERS, GENERAL

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
120.00	119.50	Guinness	119.75	+0.25	+0.21	18.5
115.00	114.50	Harvey's	114.75	+0.25	+0.22	15.2
110.00	109.50	Black & White	109.75	+0.25	+0.23	14.8
105.00	104.50	James Watson	104.75	+0.25	+0.24	13.5
100.00	99.50	James Watson	99.75	+0.25	+0.25	12.8

SUPPORT SERVICES

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
120.00	119.50	Guinness	119.75	+0.25	+0.21	18.5
115.00	114.50	Harvey's	114.75	+0.25	+0.22	15.2
110.00	109.50	Black & White	109.75	+0.25	+0.23	14.8
105.00	104.50	James Watson	104.75	+0.25	+0.24	13.5
100.00	99.50	James Watson	99.75	+0.25	+0.25	12.8



Another of your achievements that will be remembered for years to come.

Ref. 3750. The automatic De Vries chronograph with replacement century slide for the years 2000 to 2499.

IWC
Schaffhausen

For an illustrated catalogue and a list of nationwide concessionaires please telephone I.W. Benson on 071 446 6353 or fax 071 446 6366.

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
120.00	119.50	Guinness	119.75	+0.25	+0.21	18.5
115.00	114.50	Harvey's	114.75	+0.25	+0.22	15.2
110.00	109.50	Black & White	109.75	+0.25	+0.23	14.8
105.00	104.50	James Watson	104.75	+0.25	+0.24	13.5
100.00	99.50	James Watson	99.75	+0.25	+0.25	12.8

SHORTS (under 5 years)

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
120.00	119.50	Guinness	119.75	+0.25	+0.21	18.5
115.00	114.50	Harvey's	114.75	+0.25	+0.22	15.2
110.00	109.50	Black & White	109.75	+0.25	+0.23	14.8
105.00	104.50	James Watson	104.75	+0.25	+0.24	13.5
100.00	99.50	James Watson	99.75	+0.25	+0.25	12.8

LONGS (over 15 years)

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
120.00	119.50	Guinness	119.75	+0.25	+0.21	18.5
115.00	114.50	Harvey's	114.75	+0.25	+0.22	15.2
110.00	109.50	Black & White	109.75	+0.25	+0.23	14.8
105.00	104.50	James Watson	104.75	+0.25	+0.24	13.5
100.00	99.50	James Watson	99.75	+0.25	+0.25	12.8

INDEX-LINKED

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
120.00	119.50	Guinness	119.75	+0.25	+0.21	18.5
115.00	114.50	Harvey's	114.75	+0.25	+0.22	15.2
110.00	109.50	Black & White	109.75	+0.25	+0.23	14.8
105.00	104.50	James Watson	104.75	+0.25	+0.24	13.5
100.00	99.50	James Watson	99.75	+0.25	+0.25	12.8

WATER

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
------	-----	---------	-------	--------	---

30 UNIT TRUST PRICES

ASSET UNDER MANAGEMENT				ASSET UNDER MANAGEMENT				ASSET UNDER MANAGEMENT				ASSET UNDER MANAGEMENT			
	\$Bn	%	%		\$Bn	%	%		\$Bn	%	%		\$Bn	%	%
	1997	1996	1995		1997	1996	1995		1997	1996	1995		1997	1996	1995
ALLIANCE TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD															
Canada	201.70	713.39	-3.68	017-01-0078	157.57	104.09	-0.88	017-01-0078	27.75	77.72	-1.85	017-01-0078	27.75	77.72	-1.85
United States	20.70	71.39	-3.68	Canada	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Canada	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Canada	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Europe	20.70	71.39	-3.68	United States	157.57	104.09	-0.88	United States	27.75	77.72	-1.85	United States	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Asia	20.70	71.39	-3.68	Europe	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Europe	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Europe	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Latin America	20.70	71.39	-3.68	Asia	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Asia	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Asia	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Other	20.70	71.39	-3.68	Latin America	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Latin America	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Latin America	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Global	20.70	71.39	-3.68	Other	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Other	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Other	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Global Japan	11.30	38.50	-0.83	Global Japan	11.30	38.50	-0.83	Global Japan	11.30	38.50	-0.83	Global Japan	11.30	38.50	-0.83
AVIVA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TRUST MGMT															
017-01-0078	521.80	672.20	-0.80	017-01-0078	157.57	104.09	-0.88	017-01-0078	27.75	77.72	-1.85	017-01-0078	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Canada	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Canada	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Canada	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Canada	27.75	77.72	-1.85
United States	521.80	672.20	-0.80	United States	157.57	104.09	-0.88	United States	27.75	77.72	-1.85	United States	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Europe	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Europe	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Europe	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Europe	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Asia	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Asia	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Asia	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Asia	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Latin America	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Latin America	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Latin America	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Latin America	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Other	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Other	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Other	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Other	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Global	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Global	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Global	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Global	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Global Japan	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Global Japan	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Global Japan	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Global Japan	27.75	77.72	-1.85
AVIVA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TRUST MGMT															
017-01-0078	521.80	672.20	-0.80	017-01-0078	157.57	104.09	-0.88	017-01-0078	27.75	77.72	-1.85	017-01-0078	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Canada	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Canada	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Canada	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Canada	27.75	77.72	-1.85
United States	521.80	672.20	-0.80	United States	157.57	104.09	-0.88	United States	27.75	77.72	-1.85	United States	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Europe	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Europe	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Europe	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Europe	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Asia	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Asia	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Asia	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Asia	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Latin America	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Latin America	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Latin America	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Latin America	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Other	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Other	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Other	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Other	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Global	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Global	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Global	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Global	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Global Japan	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Global Japan	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Global Japan	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Global Japan	27.75	77.72	-1.85
AVIVA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TRUST MGMT															
017-01-0078	521.80	672.20	-0.80	017-01-0078	157.57	104.09	-0.88	017-01-0078	27.75	77.72	-1.85	017-01-0078	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Canada	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Canada	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Canada	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Canada	27.75	77.72	-1.85
United States	521.80	672.20	-0.80	United States	157.57	104.09	-0.88	United States	27.75	77.72	-1.85	United States	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Europe	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Europe	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Europe	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Europe	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Asia	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Asia	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Asia	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Asia	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Latin America	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Latin America	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Latin America	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Latin America	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Other	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Other	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Other	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Other	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Global	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Global	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Global	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Global	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Global Japan	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Global Japan	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Global Japan	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Global Japan	27.75	77.72	-1.85
AVIVA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TRUST MGMT															
017-01-0078	521.80	672.20	-0.80	017-01-0078	157.57	104.09	-0.88	017-01-0078	27.75	77.72	-1.85	017-01-0078	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Canada	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Canada	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Canada	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Canada	27.75	77.72	-1.85
United States	521.80	672.20	-0.80	United States	157.57	104.09	-0.88	United States	27.75	77.72	-1.85	United States	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Europe	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Europe	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Europe	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Europe	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Asia	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Asia	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Asia	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Asia	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Latin America	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Latin America	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Latin America	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Latin America	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Other	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Other	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Other	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Other	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Global	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Global	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Global	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Global	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Global Japan	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Global Japan	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Global Japan	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Global Japan	27.75	77.72	-1.85
AVIVA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TRUST MGMT															
017-01-0078	521.80	672.20	-0.80	017-01-0078	157.57	104.09	-0.88	017-01-0078	27.75	77.72	-1.85	017-01-0078	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Canada	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Canada	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Canada	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Canada	27.75	77.72	-1.85
United States	521.80	672.20	-0.80	United States	157.57	104.09	-0.88	United States	27.75	77.72	-1.85	United States	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Europe	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Europe	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Europe	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Europe	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Asia	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Asia	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Asia	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Asia	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Latin America	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Latin America	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Latin America	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Latin America	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Other	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Other	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Other	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Other	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Global	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Global	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Global	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Global	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Global Japan	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Global Japan	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Global Japan	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Global Japan	27.75	77.72	-1.85
AVIVA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TRUST MGMT															
017-01-0078	521.80	672.20	-0.80	017-01-0078	157.57	104.09	-0.88	017-01-0078	27.75	77.72	-1.85	017-01-0078	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Canada	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Canada	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Canada	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Canada	27.75	77.72	-1.85
United States	521.80	672.20	-0.80	United States	157.57	104.09	-0.88	United States	27.75	77.72	-1.85	United States	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Europe	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Europe	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Europe	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Europe	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Asia	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Asia	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Asia	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Asia	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Latin America	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Latin America	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Latin America	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Latin America	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Other	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Other	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Other	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Other	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Global	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Global	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Global	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Global	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Global Japan	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Global Japan	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Global Japan	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Global Japan	27.75	77.72	-1.85
AVIVA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TRUST MGMT															
017-01-0078	521.80	672.20	-0.80	017-01-0078	157.57	104.09	-0.88	017-01-0078	27.75	77.72	-1.85	017-01-0078	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Canada	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Canada	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Canada	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Canada	27.75	77.72	-1.85
United States	521.80	672.20	-0.80	United States	157.57	104.09	-0.88	United States	27.75	77.72	-1.85	United States	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Europe	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Europe	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Europe	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Europe	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Asia	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Asia	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Asia	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Asia	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Latin America	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Latin America	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Latin America	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Latin America	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Other	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Other	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Other	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Other	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Global	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Global	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Global	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Global	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Global Japan	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Global Japan	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Global Japan	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Global Japan	27.75	77.72	-1.85
AVIVA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TRUST MGMT															
017-01-0078	521.80	672.20	-0.80	017-01-0078	157.57	104.09	-0.88	017-01-0078	27.75	77.72	-1.85	017-01-0078	27.75	77.72	-1.85
Canada	521.80	672.20	-0.80	Canada	157.57	104.09	-0.88	Canada	27.75	77.72	-1.85	Canada	27.75	77.72	-1.85
United States	521.80	672.20	-0.80	United States	157.57	104.09	-0								

[illegible][illegible]

Also
replied

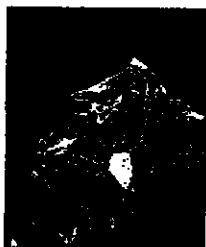
Fresh for All

Date: _____
 Time: _____
 Weather: _____
 Location: _____
 Name: _____
 Title: _____



■ FILM 1

Breezy stuff: the tornado effects of *Twister* are effective, but that's about all



■ FILM 2

Rainbow, which Bob Hoskins directs, gives the family movie an original twist

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ FILM 3

An offer you can't refuse: the enthralling *Godfather Part II* is back on the big screen



■ FILM 4

The lifestyles of New York yuppies are wittily debunked in the entertaining *Denise Calls Up*

CINEMA: Geoff Brown mourns the senseless waste of human life at the hands of the special effects in *Twister*

Blow hard, with a vengeance

Since *Twister* concerns tornadoes, you expect a few things to go with the wind. Cars, houses, cows, barns, a drive-in movie showing *The Shining*, an oil-tanker truck, a small town: they all get whirled, shaken, or reduced to rubble by the special effects demons at Industrial Light & Magic.

Two things need to be said straight away about this summer blockbuster from the brains that made *Jurassic Park* and *Speed*. The effects are convincing, and give further proof of the huge advances that computers have brought to the manufacture of illusions. But where are the human beings? True, we spot some specimens on the ground: meteorologists and tornado freaks, among them a husband trying to get his wife to sign divorce papers. (Bad timing, this.) But neither the dialogue nor the low-voltage cast make these characters significant. Their function is to be flung across Oklahoma.

When the characters are not being sucked into the air, they bicker or shout. Helen Hunt, as the scientist striving to push a data-collecting gadget called Dorothy inside a tornado's spiral, bickers with Bill Paxton, the husband awaiting her signature, or with rival scientist Cary Elwes. Back-up groups of tornado nerds sit crammed into trucks, chasing tornadoes along the back roads, screaming "Go, go, go!" at each other. None of this is riveting.

Downgrading the players for technology's greater glory is nothing new for executive producer Steven Spielberg, or his co-seniorist Michael Crichton. But the damage is more extensive in *Twister*, for this is a far more ambitious affair, directed by Jan De Bont, the cameraman who raced to the top of his new profession when he made the sleeper hit *Speed*. In *Speed* we could never predict the adventures of Keanu Reeves's bus on the LA freeways; but we all know what tornadoes do, and in *Twister* they do it time and time again. Without any human ballast, the spectacle grows tedious.

True, the sight of a cow twirling through the wind introduces a poignant and surreal note, although De Bont's team prefers the more mundane thrills of buildings and cars shattered and scattered. And for all the digital expertise of the special effects, there are still signs of corner-cutting. Odd how these tornadoes plump for isolated buildings and fields; when an entire town is laid waste, we pointedly see the aftermath, not the devastation in

progress. *Twister* may have earned nearly \$230 million in America, a country whose tornadoes have generated their own myths and subculture. But the film looks a lot less exciting viewed in the land of rain, grey skies and Michael Fish.

The shadow of *The Wizard of Oz* is hard to dispel this week. Following *Twister*'s Dorothy, the data-collecting gadget named after Judy Garland's heroine, we now reach *Rainbow*, a film partly developed at Ealing Studios but shot in Montreal; a fantasy

ly eerie Hoskins may not get the film's pacing right, but he knows enough to hire a distinguished photographer to deliver the necessary visual tricks. The magician behind the camera is Freddie Francis, 80 next year, British veteran of *Sons and Lovers* and the bleached hues of John Huston's 1956 *Moby Dick*.

Fading colours are not the only novelty. *Rainbow* was shot in Digital High Definition, a video process that allows greater flexibility and value for money, especially when integrating special effects. The results, transferred to 35mm film stock, lack the sheen we expect from material shot on celluloid, but what we lose in polish we gain in the camera mobility and immediate impact that video technology brings. This is undoubtedly the summer's most unusual family offering.

Denise Calls Up, a first feature by a promising new American independent, Hal Salwen, is another flawed film. Its material is stretched too thin; its ending hobbles; you feel like strangling Sylvia Miles, in a cameo as a screeching aunt. But so much is funny, and the central conceit so timely and resonant, that this very modern romantic comedy deserves the most kindly attention.

Salwen's characters are New York workaholics whose social lives take place entirely through telecommunication. They converse by phone, by fax, by laptop; they never meet face to face, and if a get-together is planned you can guarantee that no one will show up. Swamped by work, they explain — although probably they were too fearful to expose themselves to the perils of human contact. Even the great peaks of life, like birth, sex and death, are experienced indirectly. Alanna Ubach's Denise needs a sperm bank's services to get pregnant.

You do not have to be a smart New Yorker to appreciate the film's joke. Look around: within a few years, whole lives will be led on the Internet, and babies will be born with their ears glued to a cellular phone. But the very topic of the film makes its treatment difficult. How do you build conflict when one character never shares another's space? How do you reveal the workings of characters who spend so much time in hiding? Salwen does not have all the answers, but his technical dexterity and knack for writing one-liners help to minimise the film's problems. The strain is eased, too, by a modestly smart production design and an agreeable cast.

film that goes over the rainbow and beyond with a quartet of kids, a dog called Mutt, and a benign didactic air.

The omens are not good. Bob Hoskins, who also directs for the first time since *The Raggedy Annies*, is on his worst twinkling form as an amateur magician. In New Jersey, straggly grey hair topped off with a fez. The camera stays uncomfortably close to faces; the pace is jittery, the story slow to start. Once the kids and the dog travel over the rainbow to Kansas, we reach Dan Aykroyd, over-acting as a slowpoke sheriff, and the film hits the rocks.

Then, miraculously, it re-floats. Awful comedy put to one side, *Rainbow* nurtures the notion of a fading world drained of colour. During his rainbow trip, Jacob Tierney's Steve (one of Hoskins's grandchildren) had pocketed a few gold nuggets from the spectrum of light. This damages the world's ecology. Fruit, vegetables, the grass, the skies all lose their lustre. Civic disturbances flourish as people grow bad-tempered. Now the children enter a race against time to relocate the rainbow and restore the stolen property.

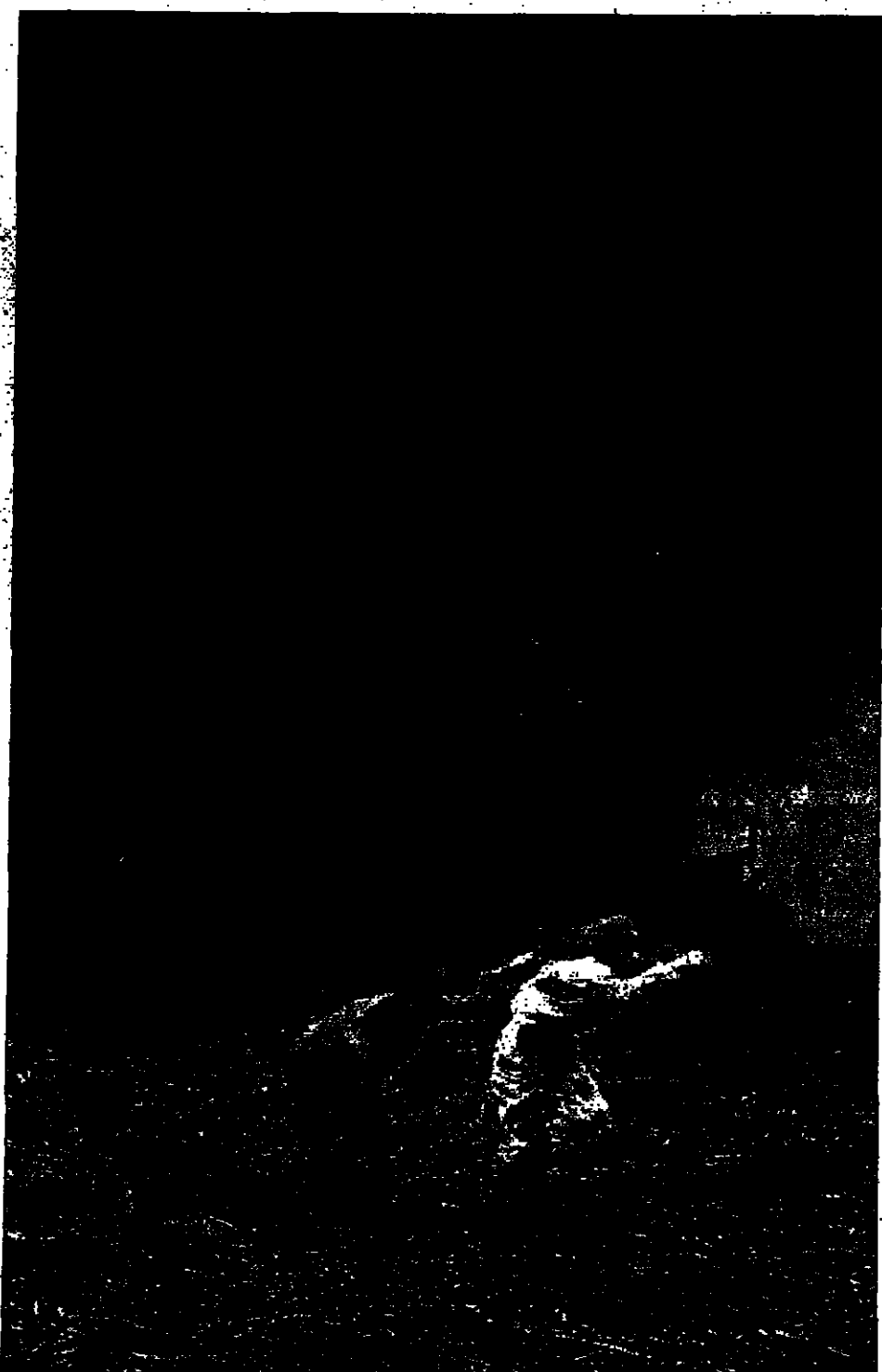
The spectacle of a world turning sickly pale is genuine

Twister
Empire, PG, 113 mins
All wind, no substance

Rainbow
Warner West End
PG, 100 mins
Bizarre family entertainment

Denise Calls Up
Curzon West End
15, 79 mins
Clever and appealing lifestyle comedy

The Godfather Part II
Lumiere, 18, 200 mins
Majestic sequel to Coppola's Mafia epic



'In *Twister*, people are tornado fodder: human debris to be flung across Oklahoma'

among them Dan Gunther, Dana Wheeler Nicholson and Tim Daly.

Back to bigness with *The Godfather Part II*, revived three weeks after its predecessor. The film, made in 1974, lacks the compelling narrative of the first Corleone saga; essentially, Francis Coppola is offering a prologue and an epilogue to *The Godfather*. Flashbacks reveal the early life of Vito Corleone (Robert De Niro), who avenges a vendetta and cultivates the status of a feared Mafia Godfather. The bulk of the footage is set late in the 1950s, when Al Pacino, now the family head, presides over a crumbling empire, his soul withering before our eyes.

The material's structural problems were only solved once Coppola merged both movies for his television version in 1977. But the cinema screen is still the best place to taste Coppola's visual feast. Blood, bullets, street festivities, domestic heartbreak: moment by moment, you watch enthralled.

'Will make a lot of money'

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases...

TWISTER

Matt Jones, 22: This human drama is merely predictable and unsatisfying window-dressing for the special effects, which are exhilarating. Destined to make a lot of money and a tremendous achievement, albeit a technical one.

Rachel Jones, 19: You know where this is going from the outset, but it's still tremendous fun getting there. The effects are worth the price of admission alone and give the film terrific energy.

Ben Wright, 21: Despite the effects, this was pretty dire. Characterisation, plot, structure — all were sucked into the same vortex as the houses and cars. I'd rather play the game of the same name.

RAINBOW

Matt: A quite bewildering waste of talent. Lower production values than a village hall pantomime and even the most open-minded and sentimental people would do well not to suffer stomach cramps as a result.

Rachel: Even allowing for the fantasy element, this big pile of cheese doesn't have a tooth-hold on reality. You may laugh, but not for the reasons the film-makers intended. *Stand By Me* this isn't.

Ben: This was awful; even if I were 15 years younger I would have hated it. The effects were equally trite. I prefer Bob Hoskins in the British Telecom adverts, and even those I can't stand.

DENISE CALLS UP

Matt: A quite engaging fable of modern relationships. The message regarding dependent



cy on technology is taken too far, making many situations unbelievable, but good performances lift it above the average.

Rachel: This film is not quite sure whether it wants to be social commentary or farcical comedy, and so struggles to find its own ground. But it has an originality and charm that keep you pleasantly diverted to the end.

Ben: It was quite amusing, but I found sitting through it as frustrating as waiting for somebody to get off the phone. I felt the use of the phone became gimmicky and tedious.



Bob Hoskins: youthful thumbs down for his second film as a director

RADIO: Peter Barnard on Radio 4's recollection of a great humiliation

ONE of the beauties of the huge and burgeoning network of radio stations in Britain is that, unlike television viewers, most listeners are able to remain sublimely indifferent to this summer's sports extravaganza.

I am of course aware that Radio 4 listeners who struggle to get FM are unimpressed with these sentiments, especially with a Test match starting today on long wave, but at least a dedicated sports network — Radio 5 Live — means that the evenings elsewhere are blessedly sports-free.

Last night the merits of Radio 4 being able to press on with a sensible agenda were amply demonstrated in two programmes marking the fortieth anniversary, which falls tomorrow, of President Nasser's nationalisation of the Suez Canal.

Why Suez was not cricket

This was a key turning point in British history and two programmes back to back provided an excellent primer in what happened and what the Suez crisis meant for Britain. *Suez 1956: The Crisis* was followed by *The Consequences*.

Historians were unlikely to find much that was new but, through interviews with those in the Egyptian, British, American, French and Israeli governments of the time we learnt much about the mind-set that led to war.

Nasser had nationalised the canal ostensibly as revenge for Britain and Amer-

ica withdrawing financial support from the Aswan Dam project. Nick Clarke's programme *The Crisis* had an official in Selwyn Lloyd's Foreign Office saying that the policy was to free the canal "by negotiation, with war as a last resort".

That may have been the official version, but the facts point in a different direction. Within days of nationalisation a military plan was prepared and Nasser was being publicly condemned as "a fascist" by Sir Anthony Eden, the Prime Minister.

Suez was to finish Eden but it was also to finish Britain as a colonial power. A conspiracy with America and Israel was one thing; the failure of this alliance, heaping humiliation upon the British, was something else. As with so many watershed in history, there is much to learn from anecdote. Thus there was a lovely moment in *The Consequences* when Samir Raafat, an historian, recalled how members at Cairo's Gezira Club stopped playing cricket as a way of indicating that British domination in the Middle East had ended.

Wherein lies a salutary lesson for suffering long-wave listeners. They will one day awake to find no cricket on their beloved wavelength and they will know that Britain will never be the same again. Forty years later, expect a whole programme marking the event.

Twinkle, twinkle, little toes

DANCE Lord of the Dance Coliseum

Michael Flatley does not enter, he explodes on to the stage in swirls of red smoke. His first sequence of frenetic, eye-blurring Irish dance steps raised an ecstatic roar from the audience. But then he is the Lord of the Dance, the hero and entire reason for the show which has now reached London as an alternative to *Riverdance*, that other Celtic phantasmagoria of which Flatley was also once the star.

So much depends on his nimble legs that there were anxious moments when a torn muscle threatened to substitute an understudy for Lord of the Dance's Coliseum opening. In performance, Flatley is the centre of a deafening storm of sound and fury that takes tackiness to undreamt-of heights. He gets to wear the glitziest costumes from a company wardrobe of startling vulgarity — especially for the women, all big Nashville hair and tarty dresses. He gets the role of shining defender of good against evil in a ludicrously inflated pseudo-mythical story that tries to glue the



On tap: Michael Flatley hits new depths of tackiness

evening together. He gets to dance all the male solos, except for a couple allowed to Daire Nolan as the invading Dark Lord, Don Dorka, a kind of Irish Darth Vader, whose soldiers in sci-fi masks and black overalls look like *Star Wars* mechanics.

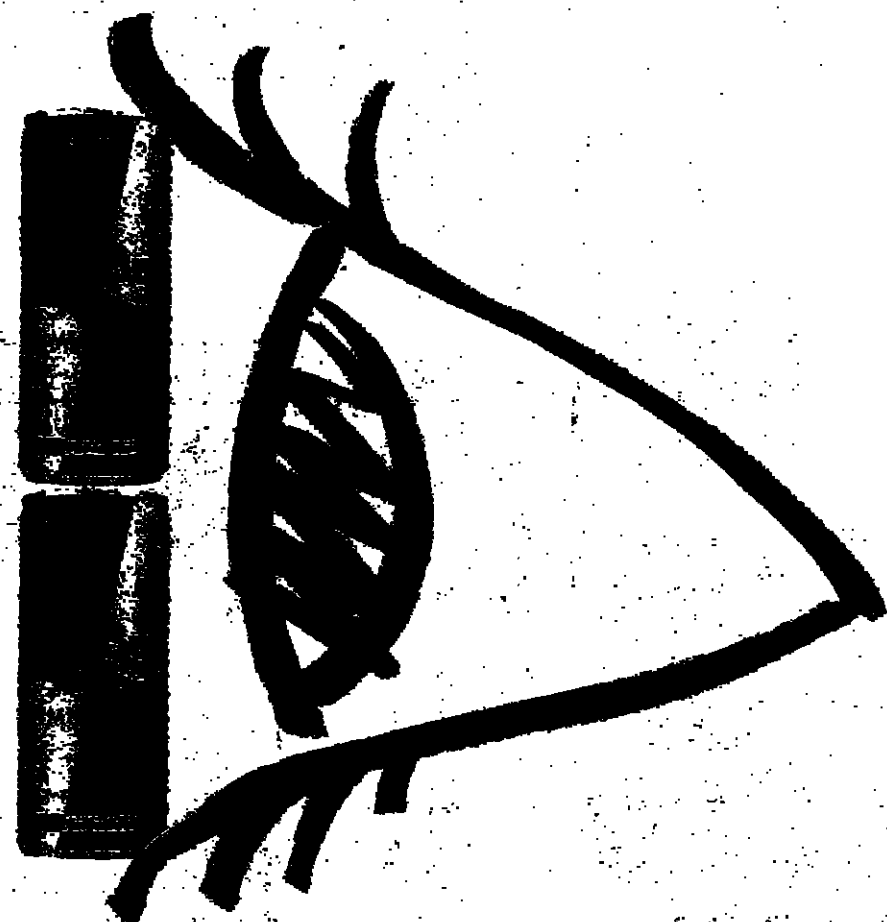
Lord of the Dance (directed by Arlene Phillips, choreographed and created by Flatley) has a raucous and sledgehammer crudeness that makes Gary Glitter seem like a refined intellectual. The amplified foot beats and music (composed by Roman Hard-

man) inundate the very core of your body, while Patrick Woodroffe's rock-concert lighting plays with raw colours and piercing searchlights. Ann Buckley as Erin, the Goddess, sings litely, but about what? Bernadette Flynn and Gillian Norris vie for the dance lord's favours although, given their outfits, I am surprised he was tempted.

The 32 other dancers form wonderfully drilled leg-flicking, shoe-thundering lines, their traditional Irish grammar loosened up by some Flatley innovation (albeit not as much as I had expected). But they are not glamorous enough to cover up a general sense of penny-pinching and making do; and instead of stressing Flatley's own phenomenal charisma and courage through contrast, I thought the awfulness around him actually dragged his performance down.

Clearly, few in the first-night audience agreed. The throbbing rhythms, the electric energy — the sheer overkill — produced a foolproof formula for hitting some collective atavistic nerve that has mature, normal-looking adults jumping to their feet and screaming in paroxysms of Flatleymania. The Coliseum has never seen anything like it.

NADINE MEISNER



CAUTION: DO NOT DRINK WHEN YOU WANT TO SLEEP



THEATRE 1

A new RSC play, *The General from America*, delves into US history with mixed results



THEATRE 2

Lust, ancient style, comes to the Gate with a new version of Boccaccio's *Decameron*

THE TIMES ARTS



MUSIC

Beethoven's Choral Symphony is stunningly played in period style under John Eliot Gardiner



TOMORROW

Queen of the ballads: Sinead Lohan leads the celebrations at the Cambridge Folk Festival

THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale on a slight portrait of a namesake; plus Boccaccio in rude health

Traitor to the Americans a patriot for me

Few, if any, Americans share my first name, regarding it, I suppose, as the local counterpart of the mark of Cain. When I worked in America, people would sometimes confirm my suspicion that they didn't like me by making the rather glaring Freudian slip of introducing me as Benedict Arnold.

So I have long had a soft spot for the great American traitor—or, as I like to think, British patriot. Surely there is a case to be made for a man denounced in Congress at his death as "the most heinous man America has known, justly hated and shunned by decent men of all nations".

If so, Richard Nelson has not made it as effectively as his record for the RSC promised. After all, he is the author of *Some Americans Abroad*, *Two Shakespearean Actors* and *New England*, all of them subtle, shrewd plays about the frayed cord that still vestigially links Britain with the navel of his native America. But his Arnold saga strikes me as a moderately absorbing chronicle play with a moderately challenging role for James Laurensen as Arnold.

For fellow English people who bear uncontentious names, like Tarquin or Medea, I should perhaps explain exactly who Arnold was. He was an exceptionally able, tough and daring general in what I suppose I must call the American War of Independence. It was thanks to him

that the key battle of Saratoga was won by the rebels. But, for reasons still disputed by historians, he changed sides. Indeed, he would have delivered West Point, which he commanded, and George Washington, who was visiting it, to our boys had not British muddle stymied him.

The General from America

Swan, Stratford

The interesting questions are, of course, why he went to this extreme, and what it cost him personally. Neither is satisfyingly addressed by Nelson. Was he sickened by getting American politicians; or angered by the Robespier-rean radicals who accused him of misusing his position as military governor of Philadelphia; or hurt by the failure of his father-figure, Washington, to back him against his foes? But his attempts to make contact with the English seem to have predated all these humiliations. So was he greedy for the British shilling, as American prejudice still holds? Or did a young wife in love with English clothes and culture influence him?

True, all these questions surface in Howard Davies's production, which begins with the hanging by rebels of a collaborator, introduces us to Corin Redgrave as an embat-

ted but dynamic Washington, and culminates in Arnold's exposure, flight and condemnation by both friends and enemies.

But Nelson does not clearly matters political, clearly enough or look far enough into matters psychological for us to begin to decide. His Arnold speaks passionately of his love for the American landscape and claims to be betraying his countrymen for their own good—but where is his inner confusion and struggle? Laurensen simply doesn't get enough opportunity to use the blend of emotional power and raddled looks that nature gave him.

Actually, I suspect the play will be remembered for Nelson's cynicism about his nation's origins. He attempts to balance this by bringing onstage arrogant anti-Americanism—"crude, God-forsaken people"—in the form of a homosexual English commander played by John Woodvine.

But this is skimpy, unconvincing stuff. If I were an American, not a Benedict, I would be more struck by the talk of factionalism on the American side, of the attempts by the politicians to unseat Washington, and of the "speculators, embezzlers and stock-jobbers" doing nicely from the war. If Nelson does not succeed in mythologising Arnold, at least he demythologises 1779.



"Was Benedict Arnold greedy for the British shilling? Did a young wife in love with English culture influence him?" James Laurensen and Jay McInnes in *The General from America*

Trench warfare of the sexes

The Decameron Gate

The season of "New Playwrights" ends as it began, with lust, rape and grisly dismemberment. But Nick Ward's contribution is not drawn from Classical Greece or Rome but from Boccaccio's treasure-house of erotic tales, purportedly told by a group of Florentines escaping the plague.

Once again the interior of this theatre reveals its flexibility in a design by Conor Murphy that excavates a trench almost the full length of it, and places a double row of benches for the audience around the sides. Stout planks bridge the trench and are moved about by the cast to become sloping walls, the roof of a tomb and so on.

At the start of the evening most of the cast are lying down there, victims of the Black Death; they emerge for Boccaccio's introductory speech, after which the lighting becomes gentler, the plague-bell is replaced by

birdsong and we are transported into the countryside.

The cast, most of them young and many only recently out of drama school, alternate between narrating a tale and playing roles in one another's. The simulation of sexual congress is far more realistically done than in *Voyeurz*, and we are agreeably closer to it.

Also, of course, to the murders of those young men, in the grimmer tales, who have the misfortune to love women not canny enough to keep the fact from husband or family. The gouging out of Guillaume de Cabestan's heart, later to be served up, cooked with *finer herbs*, to his mistress, is done deep down in the trench's dark. It is no less unnerving for that.

Ward, who also directs, provides dialogue where Boccaccio's narratives pass blithe-

ly over the details. In the famous tale of Peronella and the tub, which her husband is inside cleaning, her lover mounts her as if she is a Parthian mare, whatever that means. Ward does not bother with Classical simile but makes Peronella give instructions to her tolling spouse: "Up a bit. Down a bit. I'm sure you get the picture."

What governs Ward's choice of tales is far less clear, as is the purpose of his enterprise. Some of the erotic events have no modern counterpart. A lascivious friar pretending to be the Angel Gabriel might have a wobbly parallel in one of today's pseudo-religious cult leaders, but it does not exactly spring to mind when watching the scene.

Ward presents as an example of the perfect spirit of love what I consider an odious tale of stupid sacrifice (Federigo and the falcon). This one is directed as straightforward, lengthy narration but, unlike the original listeners, we lack

flags of wine and caressing hands to help us through it.

On the whole the men's performances are better than the more conversational style of the women. Ian Gruffudd and Matt Patresi each have striking presence and expressive voice.

JEREMY KINGSTON



Classical tail: Myriam Acharki and Matt Patresi in Nick Ward's erotic and gruesome *The Decameron*

CONCERTS: Four homages at the Proms; fine period-instrument Beethoven at the Barbican

For their forebears

BBC PO/Sinisky
Albert Hall/Radio 3

ALL four composers in Tuesday's Prom were represented by pieces paying homage to their predecessors, making for an exceptionally rich parade of musical invention. But nothing in the imaginative programme was more interesting than the new work, Hans Werner Henze's *Three Pieces for Orchestra*, based on piano pieces by Karl Amadeus Hartmann, receiving its first British performance. Hartmann's original, a piano sonata in four movements of which Henze dropped one, was itself conceived as a tribute, written in 1945 in memory of victims of the Holocaust. His music incorporates fragments of traditional Jewish melodies and workers' songs, and its late Romantic language is underlined by Henze's arrangement for large orchestra. *Pietà*, is given dark, murky colours, in contrast to the more crisply orchestrated and scherzo-like *Reveille* which concludes the set. Hartmann and Henze reserve their

strongest emotions for the central, angry *Marcia funebre*. The BBC Philharmonic under Vasily Sinisky gave a committed performance.

Sinisky, the orchestra's new principal guest conductor, showed his versatility throughout the evening, which opened boisterously with Elgar's orchestration of the *Pastorale* and Fugue in C minor by Bach. It is marvellous music in its own right, magically orchestrated: Bach distilled through Elgar in the wistful opening, and transformed in the rollicking fugue, complete with full strings, fluttering harp and cascading winds.

Rachmaninov's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*, a tribute in 24 variations to the violinist-composer's 24th Caprice, flowed smoothly under Sinisky's baton. It is not often in this piece that you find conductor and pianist on the same interpretative wavelength, but here they were, with Nikolay Lugansky the sparkling soloist.

Though not an overriding inspiration, Bach features in Brahms's Fourth Symphony, supplying a chaconne theme used in the variations of the finale. Sinisky moulded a warm, fluid performance of the outer movements, but was more persuasive in between: a steadily unfolding *Andante* and incisive, dancing rhythms in the Scherzo drew attention again to this conductor's meticulous ear for detail.

JOHN ALLISON

In Ninth heaven

ORR/Gardiner
Barbican

THE Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique's "historically-aware" recordings of the complete Beethoven symphonies have won it, and its conductor John Eliot Gardiner, universal accolades. Currently on a European tour of Beethoven's *Leonore* (to be performed at the Proms later in the season), the ORR gave us a foretaste with a performance of the Ninth Symphony at the Barbican. This extraordinary work, the last movement of which is as long as many a complete classical symphony (at least in ponderous, old-school versions), presents a Herculean challenge for even the greatest modern symphony orchestras, but the ORR and the Monteverdi Choir brought off a performance that was technically near-flawless and compellingly assured in interpretation.

Gardiner displayed a sense of absolute control, knowing exactly where the score was going, precisely where to let the music breathe without jeopardising the rhythmic and harmonic

tensions and expectations set up by Beethoven. Take, for example, the schizophrenic scherzo second movement with its chattering winds punctuated by phantasmagorical interjections from the timpani and ardent outbursts from the strings: Gardiner achieved an organic, clear-headed reading that lacked nothing in either humour or passion. The rest of the symphony was equally well paced, the final *Ode to Joy* taking fire from the sparks scattered by the contrabassoon and the incandescent woodwind writing to capture quite superbly the catharsis inherent in Schiller's poem.

Gardiner was helped by the lithe, polished playing of the ORR and, above all, the remarkable discipline of the Monteverdi Choir. They had already shown off their paces in an equally brilliantly-conceived rendition of *Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage*, presented by way of an overture to the Ninth, which opened with the most perfectly balanced and true *placissimo* I have heard for a long time: they thoroughly deserved their ovation.

I would not wish to hear any other choir in the Ninth. A starry team of soloists was led by the young German baritone Franz Hawlata, whose voice combined power and quality. He could not resist breaking the (modern-day) soloists' code to join in the final chorus—but, then, it was the kind of performance to sweep one away.

TESS KNIGHTON

THE PIANO SALE



For almost two hundred years, Chappell of Bond Street has been London's premier music store. Now, our Summer Sale offers remarkable reductions on our huge range of grand and upright models, selected from the world's finest pianos.

Your new piano will be delivered anywhere in mainland Britain, and in true Chappell tradition, after settling, it will be fully tuned and regulated free of charge.

Visit our New Bond St showroom or call us on 0171 481 2777.

ASK ABOUT PART EXCHANGE

Chappell of Bond Street

50, New Bond Street, London W1Y 9HA

Marked out by destiny: Enoch Powell on the burden of a son condemned to live in the shadow of war-time leader Winston Churchill

The child is father to the man; so runs the adage, but when the real father happens to be someone uniquely marked out by destiny a peculiar interest attaches to knowing how the son fares. Winston S. Churchill, MP, has written a life of Randolph Churchill (1911-68), his father and the only son of Winston, which bears upon that question. It is not his fault that the first part of the book turns out to be about Winston Churchill and the second part about himself.

The extracts from correspondence, especially between Winston Churchill and Randolph, presumably hitherto unpublished, supplement the growing volume of published memoirs by contemporaries and earn for the author's work a distinguished place among Churchilliana.

It is fascinating to trace, during the 1930-39 years of eclipse and expectation, while Winston yearned for a place in government, how he endeavoured to curb Randolph's propensity for fighting by-elections in opposition to National Government candidates — to the consternation of his father, still hoping against hope to be returned to government office despite opposition on India and rearmament.

Winston had no illusions about the handicap which Randolph's personality presented. He wrote: "It would in my belief be very injurious to me at this juncture if you publish articles attacking the motives and character of Ministers, especially Baldwin and Eden, and I hope that therefore you will make sure that this does not happen; if not, I shall not be able to feel confidence in your loyalty and affection for me". This is far from the effusion of a doting father.

Churchill had already written to Randolph in December 1929: "Your idle and lazy life is very offensive to me. You appear to be leading a perfectly useless existence. You do not value or profit by the opportunities Oxford offers to those who care for learning... To these causes of dissatisfaction you add an insolence towards men and things which is rapidly affecting your position out-

HIS FATHER'S SON

The Life of Randolph Churchill
By Winston S. Churchill
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20
ISBN 0 297 81640 3

side Oxford and is certainly not sustained by effort or achievement".

Randolph was undoubtedly a man of exceptional natural abilities particularly in journalism and as a war correspondent; but the weaknesses of his personality foredoomed him to disappointment in the political field even though "while his father remained politically isolated, Randolph was utterly loyal to him and made himself his lieutenant in all his political battles". Randolph was haunted throughout

his life by his weakness for alcohol and an inability to finance his expenditure, which led him to avail himself generously of the opportunities for placing articles offered to him by his father's intimacy with the newspaper proprietors. The desire for money continued to be an obsessive preoccupation right up to the end of his retirement at East Bergholt, nor did he show the slightest disposition to accommodate his style of life to his resources.

Nevertheless, he apparently had the facility for retaining his friends. It is surely not unfair to quote the summing-up of his son and biographer: "Randolph had no idea how unpleasant and offensive he could be when he was drunk. By the time he was sober he had largely forgotten or become oblivious to what had passed. When in good form, he could be the best of companions, a brilliant con-

versationalist, bubbling with wit and panache. A dinner hostess could be assured that, whatever else might happen, the evening would not be dull if Randolph was among her guests, and in a crisis there was no friend more loyal".

At the end comes the killing conclusion: "There was a limit to what even his friends could accept of the other side of his character".

Small wonder if the mirage of being adopted as a Conservative parliamentary candidate progressively receded.

So what is the answer to the question with which I opened this review? It is yes; but for being the only son of Winston Churchill his life would have been different and probably run a smoother course. The burden of being the son of the foremost war-time leader of the nation and the free world, not to mention the tradition of the Marlboroughs, created an environment in which the defects of Randolph's personality were exaggerated.

Whatever criticism can be made of this memorial to his father, Winston Churchill MP has produced an unvarnished picture. The biography is anything but a hagiography.



Flawed personality: Randolph at Waterloo Station (1930)

But for the name of the father

Love without wings

Anthony Quinton on one woman's rich and varied life shared with the noted and the notables

In the 1930s the Ardath Cigarette Company issued a series of cards with their product called "In the Public Eye", featuring Bert Ambrose (band leader), Lord Derby (racehorse owner), Amy Johnson (aviatrix), Tom Walls (comedian) and so on. Fleur Cowles's *She Made Friends and Kept Them* looks at first sight like a prose version of the same project, being an array of brief accounts of notable people in politics, show business and diplomacy. But there is more to it than that. It is rather more like Norman Douglas's "autobiographical excursion" *Looking Backward*, in which he comments briskly on those whose calling cards he had accumulated over the years. At the upper, ideal limit of the scale is Aubrey's *Brief Lives*, another highly personal compilation.

In order to keep friends it is necessary not to be nasty about them in a way that comes to their attention. So this is for the most part a kindly book. Some of those included, like Otto Abeck, whose secret trial she attended, or Senator McCarthy, were not friends at all; others, like Evita Peron, soon came to be hated. But Fleur Cowles can be quite crisp about the



Editor, journalist and American representative: Fleur Cowles and Cary Grant in the Palace Hotel, Madrid (1957)

living. Nancy Reagan had her name taken by one friend "from the lowest ever for an American First Lady to one of the highest ratings, before the issues of astrology and extravagance again took their toll."

The dead pose no problem. Fleur Cowles writes of Clare Boothe Luce's "notorious verbosity and tendency to know everything about any subject" and quotes the memorable description "a beautiful palace without central heating".

To keep friends you have to acquire them in the first place. For that Fleur Cowles had fine opportunities. Her first marriage to Gardner (Mike) Cowles, owner of *Look* magazine, of which she soon became the extremely effective associate editor, provided a central social position in public life and a journalistic springboard. She took advantage of both to have about all over the place, interviewing anyone important she could get hold of. Her determination and readiness to face risks were clearly assisted by her good looks.

These seem to have helped to arrange five visits to Nassau where there is a picture of him being distinctly flirtatious with her in his home — and to cause Halle Selassie to be a diplomatic nuisance in order to coincide with her somewhere. She brought out a skitish aspect of Stafford Cripps. He admitted to her that at an early hour he had jumped into the embassy swimming pool in Washington naked.

Fleur Cowles had a successful career as a journalist. She raised the circulation of *Look* magazine to seven million. Her own paper, *Flair*, al-

though it lasted only a year, secured a legendary status it has not lost in the forty-five years since it gave up, in part for the quality of its content (Coteau, Auden etc) but even more for its style of production: different kinds of paper, different sizes of page, inserted booklets, holes in the cover. From ordinary journalism she went on to semi-official information-gathering and message-delivering. She was an observer at the Panmunjon truce negotiations, sat in on a

SHE MADE FRIENDS AND KEPT THEM

By Fleur Cowles
HarperCollins, £20
ISBN 0 00 255689 8

conference about German reunification in East Berlin under an assumed name and, at a more elevated level, was appointed official American representative at Elizabeth II's Coronation by Eisenhower. This early American phase of her career came to an end in the mid-50s when she divorced Mike Cowles, married Tom Montague Meyer and settled in England. Since then she has been busy painting (roses, magic tigers), writing substantial books on the Perons and on Salvador Dali and has contributed to and served on

the boards of innumerable philanthropic bodies.

Although not at all laced with acid these recollections are full of sharp observations. General MacArthur's wife called him "General MacArthur", not "Doug" or "dear". The estranged first wife of Anthony Eden, asked by the Soviet Ambassador Malik what she thought of Adlai Stevenson, said: "Mr Stevenson is just like Anthony Eden. Both are excellent Number Two men." Madame Chiang Kai-Shek, whose marriage to Chiang was only a formality, was besotted with Wendell Willkie. Rose Kennedy, rising from the dinner table after an unfortunate question about Chappaquiddick, stamps out saying, "if my sons are born to be murdered, they might as well be President first."

There is no message in Fleur Cowles's book, but there is an underlying ideology. It is the Rooseveltian liberal internationalism of the great journalistic stars of 1939-45, above all John Gunther and Edward R. Murrow. It explains Fleur Cowles's evident lack of enthusiasm for Mrs Thatcher. This book, for all its richness of detail, is, she contends, a feat of memory and she explains how she commits items to it. But the real secret may lie in this parenthetical sentence: "my husband and I annoyed the Baron because neither of us takes any alcohol, ever."

When it comes to the crunch

Martin Rees

TIME'S ARROW & ARCHIMEDES' POINT

By Huw Price
OUP, £18.99
ISBN 0 19 510095 6

Time is nature's way of stopping things from happening all at once. Our world has four dimensions, not just three: events are, as it were, strung out along paths whose milestones are the ticks of clocks. But time seems different from the other three dimensions: we can choose to go left or right, forward or backward, up or down; but we are carried along willy-nilly by the flow of time.

An "arrow of time" points insistently from the past towards the future. A film of everyday events looks grotesquely different when run backwards. Cause and effect are reversed; broken glass, and drops of liquid, seem to rush purposefully together to assemble into a glassful of wine in your hand.

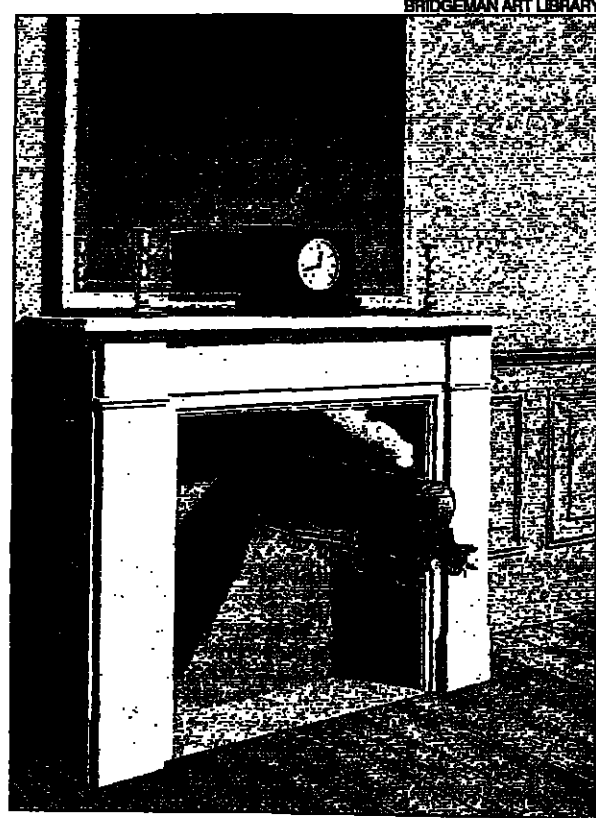
The asymmetry between past and future is so ingrained in our experience that few, except for some philosophical physicists, think of the mysteries it poses. But it is perplexing, because no such asymmetry is built into the basic laws governing the microworld. A film showing individual atoms bouncing off each other would look more or less the same whether it was run backwards or forwards.

Physicists describe the general trend towards disorder by the "second law of thermodynamics" — C. P. Snow's ancient touchstone of scientific literacy: the world changes and decays, irreversibly, even though the underlying laws are indifferent between past and future.

Each collision between two snooker balls is almost time-reversible, but the whole pattern of collisions after play begins plainly displays an arrow of time. Likewise, our world seems to have been "set up" in a specially orderly way, and is gradually running down towards an ultimate "heat death".

The asymmetry between past and future may be linked to the expansion of our entire universe. The cosmologist Thomas Gold, supported briefly by Stephen Hawking, even claimed that the arrow of time was linked so closely to the cosmic expansion that it would reverse if the universe were contracting. For any conscious beings in a contracting universe, the perception of past and future would then be reversed; they would therefore, just as we do, perceive their cosmos as expanding from a "big bang", rather than collapsing to a "big crunch".

If our universe were eventually destined to recollapse, would all structures and evolutionary trends really blur and wash out as the moment of turnaround approached? This idea seems repugnant to common sense.



Physical enigmas: Magritte's *Time Transfixed* (1938)

Local phenomena would, more likely, proceed in obedience to the "second law" regardless of what the large-scale universe did. (at least until a final "crunch"). But if cosmology doesn't determine the "arrow" of cosmic evolution, what then does?

Conundrums like this, on the interface of physics and philosophy, are the theme of Huw Price's challenging book. He argues that, though we are inexorably "trapped" in time, we can achieve clearer insights from an imaginary perspective that is "outside time". From this "Archimedean" viewpoint, as he calls it, our universe appears as a static four-dimensional entity (the "block universe") where the directions of "past" and "future" are as interchangeable as "left" and "right". Our "world lines" would be more disordered at one end (what we call the future) than at the other end (what we call the past). But in a "block universe", the hard thing to explain is any "ordered" state. It is no more puzzling to find order at the "start" than at the "finish".

In Price's perspective, everything is linked to the future just as to the past. Causal influences can act backwards in time, as well as forwards. So we should not be surprised to observe "teleological" effects — just as seem to happen if a film runs backwards, and just as would need to happen, if Gold were right, when the cosmic expansion was slowing to a halt.

Price is unfazed by the notion that the future affects the past. Indeed such "backward causation", he claims, offers a clearer insight into quantum theory. This theory works marvelously; most scientists apply it almost unthinkingly. But it has its "spooky" aspects, which many thinkers from Einstein onwards have found hard to stomach. For instance, an action can have immediate consequences at a location too remote for ordinary causal contact. If past and future are on an equal footing, this seeming paradox dissolves.

Price is a philosopher with a real grasp of fundamental physics. He offers an original slant on some profound issues, where our understanding has advanced little since the time of St Augustine. His book is not an easy read, but should trigger lively debate about whether he has introduced new paradoxes as stubborn as those he claims to exorcise.

Sir Martin Rees is the Astronomer Royal.

THE TIMES Subscriptions

The Times will match any subscription offer you receive from other daily national newspapers.

For further details please call us FREE on the following number:

FREEPHONE 0800 120 130

Mon to Fri 9am to 6pm, Sat 9am to 3pm

Offer available in the UK only

Fate shuffles the cards

Robert Nye

THE SOLITAIRE MYSTERY

By Jostein Gaarder
Phoenix House, £15.99
ISBN 1 89758 009 6

"always been utterly absorbed by the eternal questions". This means that their Fiat stops many times while the father smokes cigarettes and evacuates his mind. The boy sensibly prefers buns and fizzy drinks.

Alas, father and son have not gone far before they meet a

Swiss dwarf who gives Hans Thomas a magnifying glass and an old German baker who gives him a sticky bun in the middle of which he finds a miniature book entitled *The Rainbow Fire and the Magic Island*. This book tells the story of a shipwrecked sailor and a lot more dwarfs, and we are treated to its text, turn about, as Hans Thomas reads it with a magnifying glass, alongside the boy's account of the quest for his mother. All the chapters are headed with the names of playing cards, and there are 52 of them, matching the endless games of solitaire which Hans Thomas

plays as he sits in the back of the car.

Everything in this novel is meant to fit, so that some profound connection is implied between real life and the tale of the dwarfs in the sticky-bun book.

DOES the book write itself as the boy experiences the work around him? If so, what other then predestination can account for the fact that while each incident mirrors what is happening to Hans Thomas, he can tick ahead and see chapters which have already been written?

I think there is less to all this

than meets the eye. In any case, the novel's conclusion is both fittingly anti-climatic and pure sticky-bun. When they get to Greece the father tells the boy the myth of Oedipus. Then they find the mother and she comes meekly home after asking Hans Thomas if he can forgive her and despite his cruel response: "It depends. Have you thought of how many games of solitaire a boy can play in eight years?"

Jostein Gaarder is a philosophy professor from Oslo. His *Sophie's World* attracted many readers by combining a mystery story with a history of philosophy. The trouble with

this second fiction is that it is neither naturally mysterious nor truly philosophical. It is a game with the reader which keeps promising to explain both itself and the way the world works, but never does more than give off the meretricious music of a piece of symbol-clogged clockwork. Of course the whole thing might sound better if you could play it backwards.

NEW AUTHORS
PUBLISHED YOUR WORK
ALL SUBJECTS CONSIDERED
Fiction, Non-Fiction, Biography,
Poetry, Drama, Children's
Autographs, Book Reviews, etc.
WRITE OR SEND YOUR MANUSCRIPT TO
MINERVA PRESS
2 Old Broad Street
London EC2A 4EJ, England

Pursuer of the aesthetic, or Nazi propagandist? Leni Riefenstahl starring in *The White Hell of Pitz Palu* (1930), a mountain saga reflecting the Aryan myth.

Of pure ice and celluloid

Expressions of the Reich: Jonathan Meades on the life of Hitler's 'official' cinematographer

Leni Riefenstahl didn't menstruate till she was 21. Such tardy lunar maturation does not necessarily imply a kindredly sluggish emotional development, but it does accord with the troubled sexuality and protracted infantilism from which so many leading Nazis suffered.

Not that, according to Audrey Salkeld, Riefenstahl was a Nazi. No, sir. She never joined the NSDAP, a fact which — so this idolatrous biographer seems to believe — acquiesces her of all the charges that have been informally levelled at her down the years. Salkeld is not, of course, alone here. A series of de-Nazification tribunals — empowered sheep considering the careers of wolves — came to the same conclusion. So have countless style-fixated film critics and school-of-Peterhouse thinkers who are loathly capable of separating the "aesthetic" from the moral, the medium from the message, technique from subject.

It is an approach which, in the case of Riefenstahl's work, capiously overlooks its purpose — at best it betokens indifference towards a hideously successful attempt to harness the most modern form of representation in the service of a self-proclaimed return to pre-enlightenment despotism.

The case of Leni Riefenstahl is not analogous with those of Céline or Pound or Henry Williamson, fellow travellers of the distant right, self-made pariahs, but artists whose work, while it may be seen in retrospect to be infected by the germs of their aberrance, is free standing. Riefenstahl's wasn't. The films for which she will forever be remembered are

"official" art, that is to say instruments of propaganda, advertisements for a terrorist state.

They aren't about Nazism, they are pure expressions of its mystical morbidity, preposterous romanticism, satanic ceremonial and hero culture. There is no gap between subject and witness. Riefenstahl was Hitler's poodle. As a cinéaste she was made by his patronage and his (and Rosenberg's and Himmler's) terrible, childish determination to bend reality to fit myth.

Like Speer she would have amounted to very little in a democracy, but the Third Reich provided wonderful opportunities for the amorally opportunistic: loyalty was everything, talent nothing. In the latter years of the Weimar Republic Riefenstahl had been another actress in *bergfilme*, mountain sagas which, unusually for that era, were filmed on location and whose appeal partly derived from the audience's knowledge of the dangers that had to be faced in making them. Their appeal to the ideologues of the NSDAP was different: it was something to do with the attainment of the unattainable, the purity of peaks and ice, their congruence with myths of the Aryan descent from the pole and so weiter.

These films were a sub-division of the

genre which was abbreviated as *blut und boden*, blood and soil. Salkeld is mistaken in her belief that blood and soil was a Nazi creation — it was merely one of the crank cults they co-opted. Similarly the *Ordensburgen* were not SS schools but run by Ley's *Arbeitsfront*; and Anthony Eden was not a member of the Diplomatic Corps. Still, what are a few details when there's a reputation to be salvaged?

Bergfilme were works of tedious kitsch, but then so was just about everything. The NSDAP approved of Pevsner's dictum that there was no such thing as Nazi art seems unacceptable. Hitler was a fan of the one film Riefenstahl had directed,

The Blue Light, and she set about falling in with him at the first opportunity. He, typically, played her off against Goebbels, who attempted to seduce her in her car in the Grunewald. Her rejection of him was a rare instance of discrimination.

Goebbels considered her difficult and vacuous. Certainly her "masterpieces" are unremittingly dumb. As a director Riefenstahl was Busby Berkeley with a political and racial purpose. *Triumph of the Will* is spectacularly bereft of narrative or thought: it is all martial patterns and repetitive liturgies. It leaves us in no

doubt that Nazism was a primitive, paganistic religion rather than a political phenomenon. There are moments when you are enjoined to think that this is what Aryan ceremonial must have been like.

Riefenstahl is the last major figure of the Reich still living. Her life is defined by those 12 years and her life since then has been duly blighted. As Salkeld puts it with her characteristic sensitivity: "... there was an orchestrated campaign to stop her working. Many of the activists were Jewish. We should seek to be sure in our minds if this represents a natural and acceptable watchfulness that the memory of the Holocaust is not diminished, or whether it has become polarised into a more specific and personal vendetta."

It may also be the case that even those who discern "genius" in her propaganda would agree that her capabilities were rather specialised and that a tyrant-patron tends not to come along more than once in a lifetime. Still she would doubtless have done well in commercials and rock videos.

This signally unsatisfactory book has the reek of an official biography, even though its author seems to have enjoyed no access to her subject now, that's what I call forelocking. Salkeld is an alpinist and owner of "Britain's most comprehensive archive on mountaineering and exploration". She seems to believe that Riefenstahl's physical bravery and all purpose outdoorsiness are exculpatory traits rather than corroborations of the anti-urbanism and anti-intellectualism which were the *sine qua non* of preferment in that green autocracy.

A PORTRAIT OF LENI RIEFENSTAHL
By Audrey Salkeld
Cape, £17.99
ISBN 0 224 02480 9

Humbug or whodunnit?

Ian McIntyre examines the puzzle of a lost prince and wolf boy

THE LOST PRINCE:
The Unsolved Mystery
of Kaspar Hauser
By Jeffrey Moussaieff
Masson
Simon and Schuster, £16.99
ISBN 0 684 82246 2

The story of Kaspar Hauser, the "wild boy" of Bavaria, excites the same sort of interest as that of the Grand Duchess Anastasia. This mysterious founding turned up in the streets of Nuremberg on the second day of Pentecost, 1828. He was dressed as a peasant, could scarcely speak or walk and carried a letter addressed to the captain of a squadron of light horse garrisoned in the town.

Initially he showed a violent aversion to anything but bread and water. Later, he was able to explain that for as long as he could remember, he had been kept in a dungeon. His sole "companions" were two small wooden horses and a wooden dog, which he clearly believed were alive. Hauser appeared to be in his middle teens, and possessed unusual faculties — he could "feel" someone pointing at him from behind, and was able to read and distinguish colour in total darkness.

Could he be the crown prince of Baden, son of Napoleon's adopted daughter Stephanie de Beauharnais? Why should an eccentric English milord, the fourth Earl of Stanhope, wish to become his legal guardian and talk of taking him home to Chevening?

Who was the stranger who lured him to the deserted Orangerie in Ansbach, promising news of his mother, and then stabbed him fatally in the chest? There are no definitive answers to these questions, despite the vast literature written about Hauser (A 1927 bibliography listed 3,000 books and 14,000 articles). Herman Melville compared him to Billy Budd; Verlaine wrote a poem about him; his fate also worked powerfully on the imagination of Rilke, von Hofmannsthal and the novelist Jakob Wassermann. He was the subject of Werner Herzog's 1974 film *Jeder für sich und Gott gegen Alle* and in 1987 the American singer Suzanne Vega included a song about him in her album *Solitude Standing*.

Golo Mann, accurately if unfeelingly, described Hauser's life as "the finest detective story of all time." The whodunnit element — a prince robbed of his birthright? — has certainly always had strong appeal, although there have also been those who sifted the evidence less romantically. Andrew Lang, in his *Historical Mysteries*, published in 1904, inclined to the nonsense view that Hauser was "a humbug," although he was prepared to consider that he might be some sort of "ambulatory automatist" — someone with a mania for straying away and delusions as to identity.

Hauser's story was first made widely known in Europe by Anselm von Feuerbach. The father of the philoso-

pher, Feuerbach was a distinguished jurist and the author of the Bavarian Criminal Code of 1813. He called his account *A Case of a Crime against the Soul of a Human Being*. Long considered a masterpiece of German judicial literature, it is also a compelling piece of story-telling. This is the first complete English translation.

Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson recognises that the fascination with Hauser shifts with intellectual fashionability. For some he is interesting as a child of nature — a flesh and blood version of Rousseau's Emile. Peter Handke's 1967 play, on the other hand, was about the tyranny of language and developed the thesis that Hauser's socialisation was a form of torture, where Feuerbach believed Hauser's soul had been murdered by his incarceration. Handke argued that he was destroyed by his acceptance into society.

The only surprising thing about the extensive psychiatric literature is that Alexander Mitscherlich's article *Odipus und Kaspar Hauser* appeared as late as 1950. Four years ago, in *The Kaspar Hauser Syndrome* of "Psychosocial Dwarfism," John Money tweaked the story into shape for the 1990s: *Deficient Structural, Intellectual, and Social Growth induced by Child Abuse*.

This is also the main focus of Masson's interest. A former head of the Freud archives, he has previously written about the emotional lives of animals (*When Elephants Weep*) and flattered the devotees of psychoanalysis with a controversial book called *The Assault on Truth: Freud's Suppression of the Seduction Theory*.

Masson prefaces the Feuerbach text with an introductory essay exploring the issues raised by the Hauser case. There are also several interesting appendices. One examines the legend of wolf children (did the author of *The Jungle Book* know about Hauser?). Another translates for the first time the proclamation issued by the Mayor of Nuremberg two weeks after Hauser's arrival — the first published document with a bearing on the case. Masson has also discovered a copy of notes made by Hauser's first teacher, Georg Friedrich Daumer, long thought lost.

He remains puzzled that despite the psychiatric interest, Freud never refers to Hauser in either his letters or his published work. For Masson, the story is "a crucial document in the debate over memory and reconstruction." He believes that the key to the endless fascination of the "Lost Prince" lies under our noses — "the abuse to which Kaspar Hauser was subjected, while practically unique, is not really so foreign to our own experiences."



Kaspar Hauser (1875)

Elixir elaborator

AN UNPUBLISHED work by Isaac Newton on how to create "the true Elixir of the Philosophers" is being sold in the United States for \$42,500. The manuscript, giving a highly detailed alchemical recipe beginning with "sublimed mercury, has not yet been studied in detail by scholars."

Born in 1642, Newton studied at Trinity College, Cambridge, for 35 years before becoming Master of the Mint. Alexander Pope summed up in a couplet the usual view of him as an early rationalist, pioneering scientific methods: "Nature and Nature's Laws lay hid in Night; / God said: Let Newton be! and All was Light."

As well as writing the *Principia Mathematica*, discovering universal gravitation and inventing calculus, Newton did crucial work in optics, dynamics, astronomy and cosmology. But his alchemical writings — more than a million words, mostly unpublished — have been marginalised. Although he was not attempting to make gold, he did believe in the transformability of all matter. His instructions about what to do with the "spirit" read, in part: "Put it into a very pure Alembic in a great quantity, put a head to it and distil in white vapours, which you ought to keep for it is our true Philos... shut it up very close and the Eagle will suck the Lion's blood."

In 1936, there was a great auction of Newton's papers, and many were bought for his old college. Manuscripts rarely appear on the market now. This one is not in his hand, but contains his detailed autograph corrections. After being displayed in London, it is being sold to a private customer by Buddenbrooks of Boston, Massachusetts. "It is being sold as a holy relic," says another dealer. "A page from the *Principia* would be worth 200 on alchemy," — which is putting an alarming price on his scientific thoughts.

The Cambridge economist John Maynard Keynes, who bought heavy-



BIBLIOMANE

ly in the 1936 sale and studied Newton's manuscripts, did not consider alchemy a Newtonian aberration. He saw it as central to his work, and wrote that Newton "regarded the universe as a cryptogram set by the Almighty". But then as an economist Keynes was presumably at home with a form of pseudo-rational study that he characterised as "occult, esoteric, semantic".

In the 17th century, universities did not judge academics by frequency of publication, and Newton was under no pressure to fill out an impressive brag-sheet. Keynes wrote of his "paralyzing fear of exposing his thoughts, his beliefs, his discoveries in all nakedness to the inspection and criticism of the world".

Even Newton's amanuensis was never sure what he was up to. He tells of his "Elaboratory", up against the wall of Trinity College chapel, but adds: "What his Aim might be, I was not able to penetrate into, but his Pains, his Diligence at those set times, made me think, he aimed at something beyond the Reach of humane Art and Industry."

APOCRYPHAL truths from Oxford. A recent inspection of the history faculty was determined to find some fault. After several impeccable lectures, the inspectors had to admit that the teaching was good, but added that the lecture room ceilings were too high. "Too high for what?" asked the faculty.

"Intimidatingly high." Then came the turn of the English faculty. An inspector sat in on a tutorial. All was well, he reported, except that the don had departed from his lesson plan. He had not said that he intended to consult an information retrieval system.

Pardon? "You went over to your shelves and took down a book..."

JIM MCCUE

Peculiar behaviour for a headmaster

Philip Howard

THE LAND OF LOST CONTENT
By Mark Peel
The Pentland Press, £16.99
ISBN 1 85821 400 9



Chevenix-Trench at Eton (1964)

This biography of Anthony Chevenix-Trench could be taken superficially as the tragedy of a pedagogue. Our boyish hero wins glittering prizes at Shrewsbury and Christ Church. He goes off to war as a gunner, under the misapprehension that the artillery would offer more intellectual satisfaction than the infantry. He survives the horrors of being a POW, translating far remembered Housman into Latin lyrics as he works on the Burma Road.

After becoming Mods don at the House at an absurdly early age, then back to Shrewsbury as senior Classics beak and house master under that master head-hunter Jack Wollenden, he marches on to become a much-loved reforming headmaster of Camlot, alias Bradfield.

In that generation of great teachers (Brian Young, Stephen McWaters, David Simpson, David Raeburn, et al.) Chevenix-Trench is the white hope of independent education, the meretricious new broom to sweep clean the frosty corridors of public schools and the Classics.

The turning-point in this supposed tragedy comes when our hero is appointed Head Master of Eton. That top job in the profession becomes a crown of thorns. The tragic flaws in the hero's character emerge as a passion for the bottle and for the English vice of flogging; also inability to delegate and political innocence. Ugly rumours circulate in *Private Eye* and Etonian dining circles about Whacker Trench. The hubris of his wish to charm everybody is shown by his nickname of "Chummy" among the boys — not intended as a compliment by that sophisticated audience. He had none of the cunning qualities required in politics (and running a school) as the art of the possible. Heads are not sent into this world just to be popular. And after seven years he is sacked, though of course the sacking is covered up with Etonian guile.

power? The answer does not matter, though this is the question that lingers in the popular memory about Chevenix-Trench.

But there were more positive aspects to his career, which can be seen as pilgrim's progress and comedy of manners as well as tragedy. Flogging faded away fast from Eton and the other public schools, partly warned by his example. And anyway Eton can be a turbulent college for its Head. The 25 housemasters are a cabal of proud barons, most of them worthy of being heads or dons themselves, and some of them rebellious at the incoherence of authority. In his farewell speech to his housemasters, Robert Birley thanked them for shielding him from the ghastly Etonian parents.

The Provost (chairman of the governors) is a royal appointment (like the Head) and a mighty presence in residence breathing down the Head Master's neck. And the school is far too big for the personal touch.

A Victorian predecessor of Chevenix-Trench was asked whether he knew all the boys. "No," he replied grimly, "but they all know me." He could have added, flogging Dr Johnson's old joke, that their faces were not the parts of his pupils' anatomy he was most likely to recognise.

His biography shows that Tony Chevenix-Trench was also an inspiring and innovative teacher who saw even his ugly ducklings as glorious swans. Many of them and his colleagues loved and admired him. The book is written in magisterial pomp, so that cooking for head's dinners comes out as "culinary arrangements". And when a boy is asphyxiated by a falling window at Fettes, I wondered whether this might be a misprint for a falling Scottish widow. This is the life of a good teacher. Since Socrates, there has been no higher calling.

THE TIMES CROSSWORDS

Now! No handling charges and FREE postage to all our EU customers Rest of the World add £1 per item Sterling or US\$ only (£1-US\$1.50)

BOOKS at £5.99 (Penguin)
The Times Concise Crosswords - Book 2

BOOKS at £3.99 (Penguin)
The Times Crosswords - Books 3,6,8,10,11,12,13
The Sunday Times Crosswords - Books 3,6,9

BOOKS at £3.50
The Times Crosswords - Books 15,16,17,18
The Times Concise Crosswords - Books 3,4,5
The Sunday Times Crosswords - Books 11,12

The Sunday Times Concise Crosswords - Books 1,2,3

BOOKS at £2.99
The Times Two Crosswords - Books 3,4
The Sunday Times Concise Crosswords - Book 5

SPECIAL OFFER
Any 3 Crossword Books
listed above at £3.99 or £3.50 - just £9

The Times Quiz Book 1996 £4.50
with more than 2000 entertaining questions

The Times Computer Crosswords
by David Akenhead

For IBM PCs (MS Dos) and Acorn RISC OS range
including HELP levels and TEAM OPTION on 3.5" diskette

(Circa 60 crosswords per title)
The Times Crosswords - Titles 1 to 11 & 14 to 19
The Times Two Crosswords - Titles 1,2,3,4
The Sunday Times Crosswords - Titles 1 to 13
The Sunday Times Concise Crosswords - Titles 1 to 5
The Sunday Times Mephisto Crosswords
The Times Jubilee Puzzles 1992-1997
Now REDUCED to just £9.99 per title inc.VAT

We also offer a wide range of other
Publications and a fast, efficient service.
Please send SAE for details

Please send cheques or postal orders
(no credit cards) payable to
Akorn Ltd, 51 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW
Enquiries: 0181 852 4575 (24 hours)
Delivery up to 8 days (UK)

CRICKET: RETURN TO FORM OF LEADING BOWLER CRITICAL TO HOME COUNTRY'S PROSPECTS IN LORD'S TEST

England look to Cork to thwart Pakistani flair

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE greatest appeal of a Test series against Pakistan lies in never knowing quite what to expect. They are as likely to overwhelm any team in the world as they are to embarrass themselves with casual ineptitude. It is why they are the most exciting of all Test teams but not consistently the best and it is why England can approach the Cornhill series beginning at Lord's today with genuine hope.

If the sole criterion for winning at this level were talent, it would not be a contest. Pakistan have the best pair of new-ball bowlers around and the second-best leg-spinner, harnessed to an array of consummately-gifted batsmen. By comparison, England appear humdrum.

But Test cricket is not simply a matter of macho power and dizzy individualism. It is about application, patience, teamwork and temperament. These are virtues that successive Pakistan teams have found elusive and, unless Wasim Akram has transformed their instincts, it is in these areas that England can wear them down.

It will not be easy. Pakistan come into the first of three Tests in decent form — notwithstanding their hiccup against Warwickshire last week — and on evidence good terms with each other and the world at large. This has not regularly been the case with their predecessors and it is an ominous sign for the England team, whose preparations have been so distorted by a court case.

On the eve of the game, England's captain and coach were fidgeting in the High Court, bizarrely called to the witness box for the defence of a former Pakistan captain, Imran Khan. Back at Lord's, Nasser Hussain was predictably being ruled out of the England side, by a broken finger, and Chris Lewis, by a thigh strain, but Waqar Younis was passed fit by Pakistan to give the Sword Sniper speed screen a thorough testing. This was not the prologue Michael Atherton and David Lloyd envisaged.

Their consolation, and the allure for the 28,000 who will attend today, tube strike permitting, is that fallibility is in the nature of the Pakistanis as much as innate flair. Just as they will win with strutting conviction when all and sundry have dismissed them, so they will lose, with clattering

LORD'S DETAILS

ENGLAND: M A Atherton (captain), N V Knight, A J Stewart, G A Hick, G P Thorpe, M A Ealham, R C Russell, D G Cork, I D K Salisbury, S J E Brown, A D Mullally

PAKISTAN (from): Wasim Akram (captain), Aamir Sohail, Saeed Anwar, Ijaz Ahmed, Imran-ul-Haq, Salim Malik, Asif Mujabbat, Rashid Latif, Mushtaq Ahmed, Waqar Younis, Abul-Hasan Ali Nadwi, P. Willey and S. Bucknor (West Indies) Third umpire: J W Holder. Match referee: P van der Merwe (South Africa).

TELEVISION: BBC2, 4-6pm (in Olympic Groundstand), 10-11pm (with Olympics during lunch interval), 3.05-3.55pm, 6pm-6.55pm (if necessary), 11.15pm-midnight (highlights). Sky, 8.30-10pm (highlights).

RADIO: Radio 4 (from 10.50am, long wave).

WEATHER: Cloudy start, dry and sunny.

indignity, when the formbook deems it impossible.

Recent examples prove the point. In the autumn of 1994, Pakistan, including eight of their likely XI today, lost a Test match in Zimbabwe by an innings, before rallying to win the next two. A year later, having beaten Sri Lanka by an innings in the first of three Tests, they lost the remaining two. They were then twice beaten heavily by Australia, only to win the final game against the odds.

So their recent Test record is variable, to put it kindly. They are the most volatile team in the world, a mirror of their people, whose reaction to a World Cup defeat by India was so extreme that at least one suicide ensued and a bitter, alarming spite was turned upon the captain, Wasim Akram, who had not even been fit to play.

Wasim survived the backwash with an endearing dignity and he is now building bridges here in England. Like Atherton, a conveniently-close



Wasim: competitive

friend through Lancashire ties, Wasim is sensitive to the need for a harmonious series between countries who have spent too long trading in acrimony. This, however, does not mean that it will be uncompetitive; no one familiar with these men could possibly confuse a desire for peace with an ambivalence towards the outcome.

The teams cannot easily be compared. Pakistan's bowling strength is unarguably superior and their batting will proceed with dash and deriding-do. "We will play positive cricket," Wasim confirmed yesterday, "and I expect there to be a positive result. There always is when we play at Lord's — and we usually win."

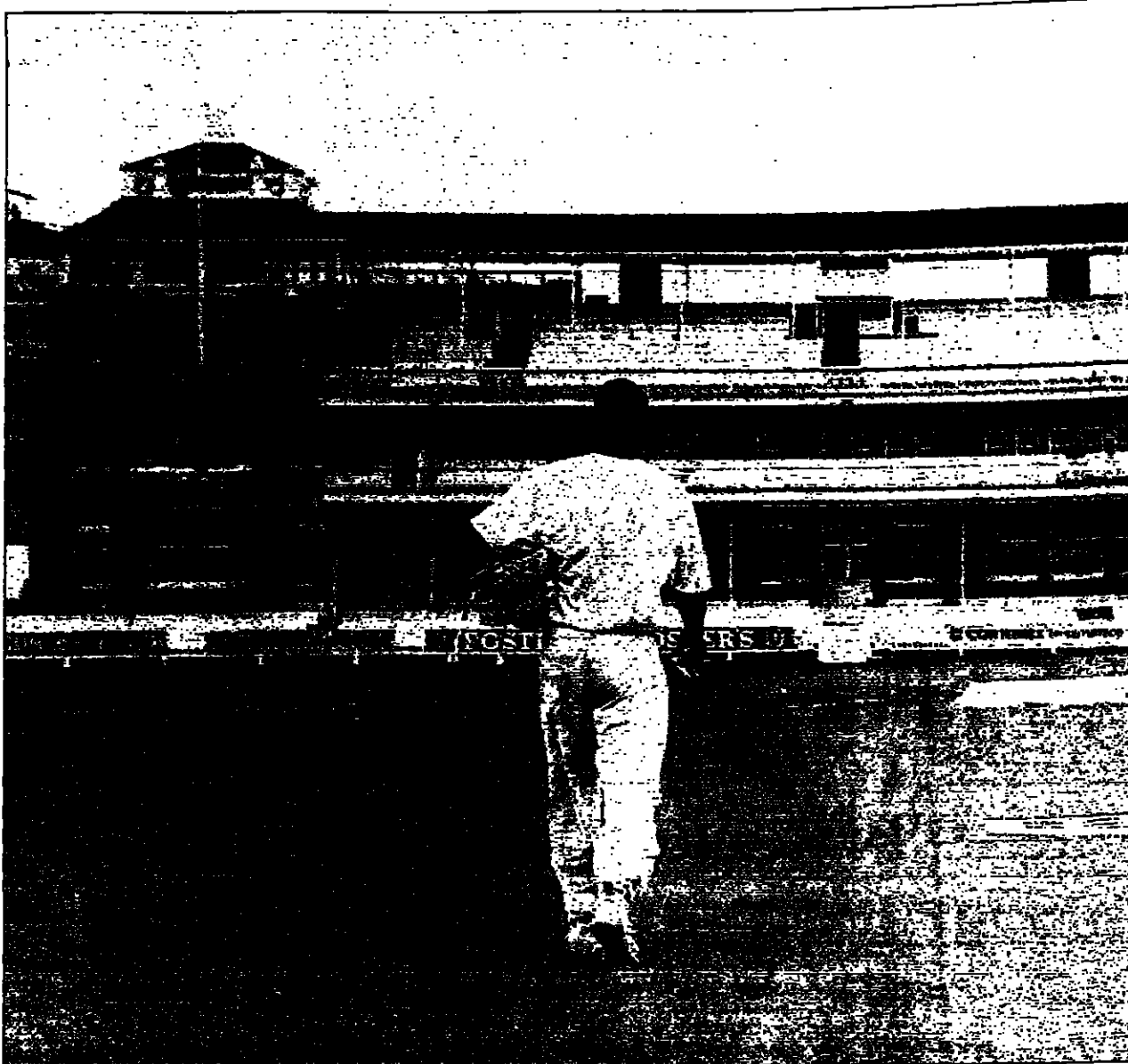
If, however, England concentrate on the traditional disciplines of five-day cricket, bowling, uncharitably and aiming to bat for long periods, the opposition could be frustrated. It may not sound attractive but England's best chance lies in boring Pakistan to defeat.

There will be an interesting spread of predictions for the lunchtime score if Pakistan should bat first. Aamir Sohail and Saeed Anwar do not approach their opening role in the time-honoured manner and those who follow like to maintain the momentum. Pakistan could make 130 without loss in the first session; equally, they may be 90 for five.

It is nothing new to be saying that Dominic Cork has an important job for England but the comment is tinged with concern, for he has not been bowling anywhere near his best. As his seam partners will be the two left-armers, Mullally and Brown, plus the all-rounder, Ealham, a trio with four Test caps between them, the significance of Cork returning to form is evident.

Ian Salisbury played the first and last of his seven Tests at Lord's, making his debut four years ago. It was also his most successful, producing five wickets, but he is a wiser and better bowler now and can expect plenty of work on a pitch that can be expected to turn later in the match.

This would not necessarily be to England's advantage, as Pakistan are still considering two spin bowlers, supplementing the whirling skills of Mushtaq Ahmed with Saqlain Mushtaq, the young off spinner, in a constantly-intriguing side. For many, the summer starts in earnest today.



Lewis walks dejectedly back to the Lord's pavilion after being ruled out of the team by injury. Photograph: Graham Morris

Pakistan face test of character

John Woodcock assesses a world-class team who too often fail to fulfil their potential

I f natural talent of itself were enough to make champions, there would be no holding the cricketers of Pakistan. They are less dependent upon "pace like fire" than West Indies, more versatile than India or Sri Lanka, and more spontaneous than the rest. Fortunately for their opponents, they are also among the least stable, so that too often they beat themselves.

In theory, they make a much tougher proposition for England to tackle in the series starting today than India did. If one thinks of the Test season as comprising two halves of a golf course, par for the first nine against India could be said to have been 35, whereas for the second nine against Pakistan it is more like 37. At the turn, England are one over, having begun with a birdie at Edgbaston but fallen away after that through failing to attack the flag. They dropped a shot against India at Lord's and another at Trent Bridge. Their game still lacks conviction.

But if at times England are our despair, how much more frustrating must it be to support Pakistan. The difference within the Test and County Cricket Board are as nothing compared to the moves and machinations that regularly prevent Pakistan from fulfilling their potential.

I observed this at close quarters in the Caribbean early in 1993 when Pakistan went there as holders of the World Cup and with genuine hopes of topping West Indies. By the time the first Test started, those of them who had not already gone home were wanting to do so. It was hard to tell the real injuries in their ranks from the affected ones.

In a game of pick-up cricket, with the best players of the day available for selection, and fully charged, the first two to be snapped up would probably be Shane Warne and Wasim Akram, followed by Allan Donald, Curtly Ambrose, Waqar Younis and Mushtaq Ahmed. If Brian Lara were to be picked early by one party, it might be as well for the other to counter straight away with Sachin Tendulkar, simply to avoid

having to get both the little masters out, but it is bowlers who win matches and, of these, Pakistan have three of the best half-dozen in the world.

Because of this, the series starting at Lord's today is of different dimensions from the one against India. All being well, it will be more challenging. England have had a year in which they have become more difficult to beat. Of their last 11 Tests, they have lost only one, of the 11 before that, they lost six.

England remain locked into attrition, not as a means of winning matches, in the West Indian way, but of not losing them, and it makes for dull watching. The last Test match against India at Trent Bridge began to seem interminable because it was so imbued with caution. It was as unprofitable for the incomparable Tendulkar to take nearly eight hours to make 177 in India's first innings, when they need-

ed to win the match to level the series, as it was self-defeating for the enigmatic Graeme Hick to take nearly 2½ hours to make 20 in England's second.

Pakistan play cricket differently, sometimes to their advantage, sometimes not. With characteristic candour, Ian Chappell, Australia's former captain, has described them as "an eminently watchable, highly-skilled rabble".

On that tour of West Indies to which I referred, Wasim was having his first brief experience of captaincy and he was overwhelmed by it. His own game went to pieces and his team divided under him. The intervening years have mostly been a travesty, even for Pakistan, but they won the last two Tests they played, against Australia in Sydney and New Zealand in Christchurch, and they have a side of some maturity.

It is in all our interests, not only their own, that for once they should pull together. If they do so, and yet England win, even Australia may start to wonder. It is not too much to ask, but, with England's present resources, it is a lot to expect.

SCOREBOARDS

Britannic Assurance county championship

Worce v Northants

KIDDERMINSTER (first day of four, Northamptonshire won toss) Northamptonshire have scored 294 for nine wickets against Worcestershire.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: First Innings
R R Montgomery bow b Sherriff 34
A Fordham c Ebb b Lampitt 29
T C Watson c Moody b Illingworth 6
M Curran bow b Lampitt 40
D J Sales c Church b Illingworth 6
D J Lloyd c Lampitt b Illingworth 2
A L Penberthy c Lampitt b Illingworth 2
J H Snipe bow b Lampitt 39
A R Roberts b Lampitt 30
10 plays not out
J P Taylor not out 30
Extras (nb 7, w 3, nb 6) 16
Total (9 wickets, 108 overs) 294

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-53, 2-55, 3-82, 4-83, 5-137, 6-144, 7-145, 8-145, 9-233

BOWLING: Sherriff 20-4-71-1, Ebb 15-3-51-0, Lampitt 25-4-73, Illingworth 34-11-84-4, Moody 4-0-17-0, Sales 6-1-21-1

WORCESTERSHIRE: W P C Weston, M J Church, T S Curtis, T M Moody, R R Snipe, V S Solari, J S Rhodes, S R Lampitt, R A Angwath, S W K Ebb, A Sherriff
Bonus points: Worcestershire 2
Umpires: G I Burgess and D J Constant

Yorkshire v Somerset

SCARBOROUGH (first day of four, Yorkshire won toss) Yorkshire, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 309 runs behind Somerset.

SOMERSET: First Innings
M N Latham bow b Hartley 43
P D Swales bow b Hartley 30
R A Parsons c McGrath b Gough 62
R J Harden c Byles b Silverwood 34
A N Hirst bow b Gough 0
S Lase c McGrath b Silverwood 22
R J Turner bow b Silverwood 13
G D Rouse not out 34
J D Batty bow b Silverwood 4
R Caddick b Gough 4
K J Shree c McGrath b Hartley 7
Extras (nb 4, w 6, nb 30) 40
Total (8 wickets, 28 overs) 289

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-36, 2-41, 3-212, 4-217, 5-238, 6-247, 7-244, 8-276, 9-298

BOWLING: Gough 21-3-74-3, Silverwood 21-5-53-4, White 13-1-32-0, Hartley 19-4-7-0, Stamp 7-2-24-0, Vaughan 3-0-7-0, Bevan 5-0-0-0

YORKSHIRE: First Innings
M D Mason not out 0
M P Gidley not out 0
Total (no wickets, 1 overs) 0

***D Byles, M G Bevan, A McGrath, C White, R J Batty, D Gough, P J Hartley, C E W Silverwood and R D Stamp to bat**

BOWLING: Caddick 1-1-0-0

Bonus points: Yorkshire 4, Somerset 3

Umpires: G Stamp and R A White

Tour match

Gloucestershire v South Africa A

CHELTONHAM (Gloucestershire won toss) South Africa A beat Gloucestershire by 28 runs.

SOUTH AFRICA A:
S G Koenig c Lynch b Smith 0
H H Gibbs c Smith b Smith 55
J H Kallis c Smith b Symonds 50
H D Ackerman not out 7
A B Commins c Alleyne b Symonds 2
D N Crookes c Alleyne b Symonds 66
N Potas not out 31
S J Pollard bow b Alleyne 0
N Boje not out 19
P R Adams not out 14
Extras (nb 5, w 3, nb 2) 10
Total (8 wickets, 50 overs) 297

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-119, 3-127, 4-138, 5-227, 6-250, 7-250, 8-288

BOWLING: Smith 10-0-74-1, Lewis 10-0-61-0, Alleyne 10-0-63-2, Ball 10-0-37-1, Symonds 10-0-52-2

GLoucestershire: R J Cunliffe c Pollard b Adams 18

R H Dawson c Pollard b Adams 1

T H C Hancock c Pollard b Schultz 1

M A Lynch b Boje 30

A Symonds c Koenig b Crookes 84

M W Alleyne not out 5

A J Wright not out 33

M C Ball c Kallis b Schultz 21

R C Williams not out 21

A M Smith not out 0

J Lewis c Pollard b Adams 23

Extras (nb 4, w 7, nb 4) 15

Total (48 overs) 269

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-9, 3-102, 4-120, 5-138, 6-200, 7-218, 8-218, 9-288

BOWLING: Smith 10-2-36-2, Gibbs 9-0-41-1, Crookes 9-0-59-1, Adams 8-0-45-2, Boje 4-0-32-1, Ackerman 8-0-52-0

Umpires: V A Holder and M K Reed

Interactive Team cricket update

28

Somerset sow seeds of doubt

BY PAT GIBSON

SCARBOROUGH (first day of four, Yorkshire won toss) Yorkshire, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 309 runs behind Somerset.

AS A Wolds farmer and a former captain of Scarborough Cricket Club to boot, David Byas knows more than most about conditions in these parts, but he did not quite reap the harvest he expected when he set about extending Yorkshire's lead in the county championship yesterday.

The North Marine Road pitch, green in the middle and shaved at the ends, was nothing like the placid strip on which batsmen used to make hay at the famous festival, but first Latham and Bowler, then Parsons and Harden, mocked Byas's decision to put

Somerset in with stands of 86 and 122. It was only after tea, when Somerset were losing their last eight wickets for 96, four of them to the impressive Silverwood, that Yorkshire made serious inroads into the batting and by then Somerset had enough runs to give Caddick and company something to bowl at today.

This is an important game for both Yorkshire, 15 points clear at the top, and Scarborough, which is to be the only ground outside Headingley that they will use for championship and Sunday league matches in future. Scarborough will have a maximum of two of each but, with an exciting young team emerging, Yorkshire will obviously be looking for positive results from their visits.

It is Scarborough's proud boast that the venue is responsible for 40 per cent of Yorkshire's gate receipts from 20 per cent of the cricket, although yesterday was a bad day to judge. An abrupt change in the weather brought rain, which delayed the start by 45 minutes, a howling gale straight off the North Sea and no more than 1,000 spectators.

The hardy few were rewarded by a flurry of early strokes from Latham, workmanlike batting by Parsons and Harden, who made Yorkshire pay for dropping them both by scoring half-centuries, and some wholehearted bowling from Silverwood, who took his four wickets for 16 runs in 33 balls. At 21, he looks a certainty for the England A tour and a possible for the senior one.

Northants rescued by Ripley

DAVID RIPLEY, Northamptonshire's long-serving wicketkeeper, dragged his side out of trouble yesterday with a battling 71 not out in the first innings against Worcestershire at Kidderminster.

Ripley, who was recalled because of Russell Warren's broken thumb, put on 88 for the ninth wicket with Andy Roberts and 61 in an unbroken stand with the last man, Paul Taylor, as Northamptonshire recovered from 145 for eight in mid-afternoon to 294 for nine.

Their problems had been caused by Worcestershire's most experienced bowlers. Richard Illingworth claimed four for 64 in a spell of 32 overs and Stuart Lampitt three for 47, as well as two slip catches.

Symonds fails to save Gloucestershire

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON

CHELTONHAM (Gloucestershire won toss) South Africa A beat Gloucestershire by 28 runs.

GLoucestershire came closer to winning this match than they could have imagined after losing two early wickets. The margin was still fairly emphatic but, so long as Symonds was there, they had a chance of victory. In the end, South Africa A had 28 runs too many as they completed the second one-day win of their tour.

Symonds was the sixth man out at 200 after driving Boje, the left-arm spinner, to long-off. He had made 84, with half his runs coming from boundaries, and taken the score from 30 for two to 102 in partnership with an equally entertain-

ing Lynch. The rest of the batting was poor, however, until Lewis whacked 33 in a giddy contribution towards the end. Adams ended Lewis's show of resistance when he had him stumped, and then Cunliffe, who had retired hurt earlier with a bruised hand, perished the same way. That provided some compensation for the little chinaman bowler, who had been taken off after bowling his first three overs as Lynch sought to get after him.

South Africa launched their innings with a stand of 118 for the second wicket between Gibbs and Kallis, who both made half-centuries. They scored at six runs an over, regularly finding the boundary on this small festival ground. Then Ackerman and Crookes shared 99 runs for the fifth wicket, to bolster the innings after the loss of three

wickets. Crookes, who has made two first-class hundreds on this tour, batted freely again yesterday for his 66. In the closing overs, Potas hit the ball to all parts and was unbeaten on 31 when the innings ended.

Gloucestershire lost Dawson and Hancock and Schultz hit Cunliffe painfully on the hand, forcing him to withdraw.

But Lynch was quickly into his stride, swinging Adams and Boje high for six and it was an important wicket when Boje bowled him for a bright 52.

The run-out of Alleyne and Wright, who was batting with a runner, did not help Symonds but he battled on willingly until he drove Boje to Commins at long-off. And that, despite the late efforts of the tail, was effectively that.

Graham Cowdrey has been dropped by Kent for the match against Derbyshire starting today. He is replaced by Ed Smith, 18, a Cambridge University student, who was yesterday called into England's party for the Under-19 Test series against New Zealand.

Smith, who will open the Kent batting with David Fulton, is given his chance after Cowdrey's loss of form which has seen him produce only 84 runs in his last six innings.

Darryl Foster, the Kent coach, said: "There was a lot of deliberation about the team, but, unfortunately, Graham's form has not been as good as he would like."

ENGLAND U19 SQUAD: A G Morris (Yorkshire, captain), G J Batty (Northants), C L Campbell (Durham), D A Cook (Gloucestershire), M J Hoggard (Northants), B C Hollister (Sussex), D C Nash (Middlesex), D J Roberts (Northamptonshire), D J Sales (Northamptonshire), O A Shah (Middlesex), T Smith (Kent), A J Swann (Northamptonshire)

Kellogg's Sustain
A SCIENTIFIC BALANCE OF GRAINS, FIBRE & VITS

DESIGNED FOR SPORT

Olympics must lose flab caused by junk diet

Those who have already spent too many long night hours watching wall-to-wall television coverage from Atlanta will sigh with weary relief as the real Olympics eventually begin tomorrow.

Enough of beach volleyball, enough of women's soccer, enough of team dressage. At last they will bring on the real athletes. As the fastest men and women in the world line up to do battle over 100 metres, we shall witness a struggle for genuine Olympic gold.

What we need is a definition of what really constitutes an Olympic sport and a drastic pruning of the events that do not qualify. The Games need cutting down to size.

Right back at the beginning of it all, in the first record of

the ancient Olympics in 776 BC, there was only one event — the stade race, a sprint of just less than 200 metres. Thirteen Olympiads went by before they added a second race, and many decades before the introduction of throwing, jumping, wrestling and boxing. The lot eventually set in when they added chariot racing.

In the modern Games every Olympiad sees more and more sports clamouring to get in. In Atlanta we have softball and mountain biking, and there is talk of ballroom dancing and women's wrestling making their entrance in Sydney.

Yet how you truly define an Olympic sport can be delightfully simple. If an Olympic gold medal is the greatest pinnacle you can achieve, if

there is no greater accolade in your sport, if no other tournament compares, then it is a true Olympic event.

Take the 100 metres. If this is your event, the Olympic title is the only one that really matters. You can lose every race in the years between the Games. Others can run faster. It matters not. If you win the gold medal you are hailed as the fastest human on earth. That is a true Olympic title.

Contrast this with tennis or baseball, soccer or cycling. These sports have their Wimbledon, their World Series, their World Cup or their Tour de France. If the Olympic title is not the crowning glory, then you are talking about junk sport that clutters up the Olympic programme.

The Games, sadly, grow



ever bigger, and this is the root cause of many of the problems, including the transport and organisational chaos that is making Atlanta look like a disaster. These Olympics opened with many proud boasts about their size. The greatest number of countries, 197, taking part; the greatest number of competitors; more officials, more sports, more

venues, more tickets. The results so far have included an opening ceremony that lasted 4½ hours and saw two heart attacks in the arena, one of them fatal, and transport chaos so bad that Britain's top gold-medal hopes, Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent, fled the shambles of the Olympic village. Other athletes have been so enraged by their treatment that they have resorted to hijacking buses to get to their venues.

The Atlanta problem is almost entirely one of size, and as things come unstuck it should at least give the organisers of the Sydney Games a golden excuse to cut out some of the peripheral rubbish.

It is not the first time that the Olympics have lurched down

the road to gigantism. In 1932 the Games were awarded to Los Angeles and the organisers made many innovations, including a purpose-built Olympic village and subsidised transport and food for competitors. A German, Carl Diem, haunted the games, notebook in hand, vowing that everything he witnessed would be done on a greater scale in Germany. The Berlin Games of 1936 were the most spectacular the world had ever seen.

But the Olympics were dramatically cut down by the effects of war for the London Games of 1948. Half a century on, they are once more hopelessly out of control.

Although ideas to cut back the number of sports and events in the games were

mooted in the run-up to Atlanta, there are, in fact, a record 29 sports and 271 events scheduled.

Only five sports have been on the programme of every modern games since 1896 — cycling, fencing, gymnastics, swimming and track-and-field athletics. Rowing was on the original programme in 1896, but rough seas caused its cancellation.

Of course, the criteria for taking part in the Olympics have changed dramatically, particularly since the Games gave up clinging to the amateur ethos that inspired the early days. Whether there is anything recognisable left of the original code, laid down by Baron Pierre de Coubertin a century ago, is open to debate. To the world's viewing mil-

lions, the Games are still sport's greatest festival. But to too many of the competing sportsmen and women, it is not. Nobody could pretend that the American basketball Dream Team players will have focused on winning Olympic gold over the past four years, or that to the world's leading tennis players this is anything more than just another tournament.

But it is with the core sports, particularly track and field, that the Olympics becomes a showpiece and the medals begin to matter. This is when the years of training get focused into seconds of effort.

So bring on the 100 metres men — and let the real Games begin.

JOHN BRYANT

ATLANTA 96: THE COMPLETE GUIDE

The murder in January of Dave Schultz, the former United States Olympic wrestler, was a serious setback to the development of wrestling in the States. John du Pont, the millionaire, who has been charged with Schultz's murder, had used his wealth to support the nation's wrestlers and had set up a training camp in Pennsylvania on his 800-acre estate. He provided individual financial support to allow many of America's top wrestlers to train full-time, calling his squad "Team Foxcatcher". But while the United States waits for the trial of du Pont, there has been another bizarre twist in the saga. Recently, a local authority in Pennsylvania ruled that some changes to the estate, which are believed to have been ordered by du Pont after his arrest, were illegal. They include the construction of a guardhouse and a barbed-wire fence, the setting-up of some rusty bear-traps, and the posting of a sign at the front gate, which read: Foxcatcher Prison Farm.

Yvonne McGregor still had a smile on her face yesterday although she was \$700 the poorer: the money had "disappeared" from her room the previous day. She is the most cheerful among a happy British women's team of six and the one most likely to win a medal. She holds the world one-hour record and is the Commonwealth champion. Today she starts what could be a four-day 3,000 metres pursuit competition. Officials have been generous to the women in requiring them to race only once a day during the elimination process to Saturday's final. McGregor is one of several in the squad who came to cycling late after a successful athletic career as an international full-runner and triathlete until an injury forced her to retire from athletics. Another former athlete is Chris Newton, who was told two days ago that he will be taking Chris Boardman's place in next week's road race. When Boardman won Britain's first gold medal in Barcelona, the teenage Newton was a county athletics champion. PB

At the end of the fourth day of the world championships in Rome in 1994, Chinese women had won eight gold, four silver and two bronze medals. By the close of the fourth day in Atlanta, the tally is one gold and two silver. The reason? The food was not suitable in the village canteen; the team had lots of youngsters; and there had been many false fire alarms at the dormitories. Could there be another explanation? "If I were a journalist and always asking about doping, I would find it boring," said Zhao Ge, the coach, whose nation has produced 18 positive steroid tests. Perhaps China has discovered that being beaten has its benefits. Take Jeff Rouse, of the United States, winner of the 100 metres backstroke here, four years after his defeat in Barcelona by Mark Tewksbury of Canada, despite being the world record-holder. "I want to thank you for beating me," Rouse said to the retired Tewksbury before his race. "It's kept me in a sport I love for four extra years." CL

Reports: John Goodbody, Peter Bryan, Craig Lord

HOT SPOT

Steve Redgrave continues his bid for Olympic history today when he and Matthew Pinsent compete in the coxed pairs semi-finals. Unbeaten for four years, the British pair will be expecting a better performance than in their first-round outing on Sunday. Redgrave is attempting to become the first Briton and the fourth sportsman to collect four consecutive Olympic gold medals. TV: BBC1: from 1.40pm.

Single scullers, the loners of the Olympic Regatta, have had their privacy invaded on Lake Lanier. The mini hi-vision cameras which have been mounted on the rear of fours and eights in recent years, not always to the delight of the rowers involved, have, in the 1996 Olympics, spread to single sculling boats. Fisa, the international governing body, agreed to the innovation and informed the athletes some months ago. There are clear differences between cameras on the small sculling boats and the bigger eights and fours. On the 58ft long eight, weighing 94kg, the cameras are mounted on tripods. On the lighter 27ft sculling boats, they are fixed to the rear decking, and the weight of the camera becomes more of an issue. Guin Batten, Britain's Olympic women's sculler, said: "When your boat only weighs 14kg, an extra kilogram is a real burden." From the television viewers' point of view, the cameras give a strange image that adds little of significance, particularly when covered in spray. MH

You could not get away from them yesterday. Those seven grinning faces shone forth from every newspaper and were the talk of every television station. The United States women's gymnastics gold medal-winners. Kerri Strug, leg still encased in a plaster cast, had joined the team for an early evening celebration at Planet Hollywood, upstaging Bruce Willis and Demi Moore. "If you had written that script, it wouldn't have been believable," Moore gushed. A film of the Kerri Strug story with Moore in the leading role? Best not to give anyone ideas. Hamburgers were not, however, everyone's idea of the ideal gymnast's diet. "Spaghetti, please," Dominique Moceanu said. The team had to be up early, too, to appear on the NBC morning news programme, but there is still more work to be done today in the all-round event, and in the individuals on Sunday and Monday. There are some men competing somewhere, but no one has noticed yet. AL

As a rising young athlete, Salah Hissou could not help but admire the achievements of his Moroccan countryman, Khalid Skah. How Hissou dreamt of following in the footsteps of Skah, winner of two world cross-country titles and an Olympic 10,000 metres gold medal. Now he is almost there, he is not about to let sentiment stand in his way. Skah's father is dying of cancer. "Maybe he will die before the Olympics but I hope I can give him another gold medal at the end of his life," Skah said. Hissou was listening as Skah spoke emotionally in Atlanta about trying to retain his 10,000 metres title as a gift to his father. But Hissou was unmoved. He announced that, instead of opting for the 5,000 metres, in which he would have been the most likely challenger to Haile Gebrselassie, he has chosen the 10,000 metres. Concerned that he may not possess the speed required to win at the shorter distance, Hissou believes his better chance comes at 25 laps. If he cannot win, he hopes Skah succeeds. DP

Reports: Mike Rosewell, Andrew Longmire, David Powell

MEDAL TABLE							
	Gold	Silver	Bronze		Gold	Silver	Bronze
United States	9	12	3	Germany	0	6	9
Russia	9	5	2	Belarus	0	3	1
Poland	5	2	1	Greece	0	2	0
China	4	5	3	Brazil	0	1	2
France	4	3	6	Sweden	0	1	1
Italy	3	2	3	Austria	0	1	0
South Korea	3	1	2	Great Britain	0	1	0
Turkey	3	0	1	Finland	0	1	0
Belgium	2	1	1	North Korea	0	1	0
South Africa	2	0	1	Spain	0	1	0
Ireland	2	0	0	Uzbekistan	0	1	0
New Zealand	2	0	0	Hungary	0	0	5
Cuba	1	4	2	Bulgaria	0	0	4
Japan	1	2	0	Holland	0	0	4
Australia	1	0	5	Canada	0	0	2
Ukraine	1	0	2	Georgia	0	0	1
Romania	1	0	1	Moldavia	0	0	1
Armenia	1	0	0	Yugoslavia	0	0	1
Costa Rica	1	0	0				
Kazakhstan	1	0	0				

□ At end of Tuesday's events

□ At end of Tuesday's events

Weather: sunny Humidity: 80% Temperature: 76F

TODAY AT THE GAMES

All times BST

BADMINTON: Men's singles, first round (19.00 and 01.00); men's doubles, first round (14.00 and 19.00); women's doubles, first round (14.00).

BASEBALL: Round-robin: Holland v Nicaragua (15.00); Australia v Italy (20.00); Japan v United States (01.00).

BASKETBALL: Women's preliminary round: Pool A: Italy v Russia (15.00); Brazil v Japan (01.00); Canada v Chile (03.00); Pool B: United States v Zaire (17.00); South Korea v Ukraine (20.00); Cuba v Australia (22.00).

BEACH VOLLEYBALL: Men's and women's round-robin (14.00 and 19.00).

BOXING: Second round (bantamweight, welterweight and heavyweight: 18.30 and 01.00).

CYCLING: Men: Individual pursuit, semi-finals (15.00) and final (18.40); sprint, second round (15.15) and repechages (16.15); Women: Individual pursuit, qualification (14.00); sprint, first round (15.55) and repechages (16.30).

EQUESTRIANISM: Three-day event: Individual endurance (12.30).

FENCING: Men's team foil, preliminaries (18.00) and final stages (22.00); women's team foil, preliminaries (13.00) and final stages (22.00).

FOOTBALL: Men's preliminary round: Pool C: South Korea v Italy, Ghana v Mexico (23.30); Group D: Brazil v Nigeria, Japan v Hungary (23.30); Women's preliminary round: Pool A: United States v China, Denmark v Sweden (02.00); Pool B: Norway v Japan, Brazil v Germany (02.00).

GYMNASTICS: Women's individual all-round final (21.15).

HANDBALL: Men's preliminary round: Pool A: Kuwait v Croatia (15.00); Switzerland v Sweden (19.30); United States v Russia (02.00); Pool B: Algeria v France (17.00); Spain v Germany (21.30); Brazil v Egypt (00.00).

HOCKEY: Men's preliminary round: Pool B: South Korea v South Africa (14.00); Malaysia v Great Britain (22.30); Holland v Australia (01.00); Women's round-robin: Spain v Great Britain (14.00); Holland v Germany (16.00); Australia v South Korea (22.30); United States v Argentina (01.00).

JUDO: Men's under 65kg and women's under 52kg, preliminaries (14.30) and finals (20.00).

ROWING: Men: Semi-finals: Coxless pairs (14.00); double sculls (14.40); coxless fours (15.20); single sculls (16.00). Women: Semi-finals: Coxless pairs (14.20); double sculls (15.00); single sculls (16.40).

SHOOTING: Men: 50-metre free rifle prone, preliminaries (13.30) and final (18.00); 10-metre running target, preliminaries (14.00); 25-metre rapid fire pistol, preliminaries (15.00) and final (19.30).

SOFTBALL: Round-robin: China v Holland (14.00); Japan v Australia (16.30); Taiwan v Puerto Rico (23.30); Canada v United States (02.00).

SWIMMING: Heats at 15.05 for evening finals plus men's 1,500m freestyle. Finals: Men: 50m freestyle (01.02); 200m individual medley (01.49); Women: 50m freestyle (00.33); 200m backstroke (01.27); 4x200m freestyle relay (02.13).

TABLE TENNIS: Men's singles, round-robin (15.00) and 00.00; men's and women's doubles, round-robin (00.00); women's singles, round-robin (15.00).

TENNIS: Men's and women's singles, second round, and men's and women's doubles, first round (15.00).

VOLLEYBALL: Men's preliminary round: Pool A: Bulgaria v Argentina (15.00); Poland v Brazil (21.00); United States v Cuba (00.30); Pool B: Holland v Italy (17.30); Tunisia v Yugoslavia (23.30); South Korea v Russia (03.00).

YACHTING: Two races to be sailed in each class: men's and women's 470, men's Finn, women's Europe, Laser, Star (18.00).

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

BBC1

7.0-9.0am Olympic Breakfast, 9.05am-12.35pm Olympic Grandstand, 1.40-6.0pm Olympic Grandstand (with cricket from Lord's), 7.0-8.30pm Essential Olympic, 10.30pm-1.30am Olympic Grandstand.

BBC2

1.0-1.40pm Olympic Grandstand (during lunch interval at Lord's), 6.0-7.0pm Olympic Grandstand (with cricket), 8.30-10.30pm Olympic Grandstand.

Europe

24-hour coverage.

Conley promises battle royal in fight for his crown



Conley determined

FROM DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

JONATHAN EDWARDS was in no doubt. "He is the person I have always looked up to. I have the utmost respect for him. He is a fantastic athlete. He has obviously got back into very good shape this year and it will be his last Olympics. He will be a real force." He is Mike Conley, the Olympic triple jump champion.

Yesterday, Conley did the best he could to confirm the views expressed by Edwards

— but shared by few close observers of the sport — that he will not necessarily see his Olympic title pass to the Briton on Saturday. "Here are the Olympics, the state is wiped clean and Jonathan is one of five jumpers who can win," Conley said.

Wiping the Edwards slate clean requires a large cloth. His world record, his world championship and his unbeaten sequence of 22 competitions over two seasons have chalked his name all over the event, but Conley insisted that his

own performance record, before Edwards rose to prominence, should not be discounted. "Does my gold in 1992 make no difference? Does my world indoor record, my being No 1 in the world six times, does that make no difference?" Conley provided his own answers. "Yes, it does make a difference — but on the day of the Olympic Games, it makes none."

It is not as if nobody other than Edwards is capable of exceeding 18 metres, he said.



He suggested that three others, himself and Edwards apart, could jump that far in the Olympic final. Yoelvis Quesada, from Cuba, Brian Wellman, from Bermuda, and Kenan Harrison, Conley's compatriot from the United States, were capable, he said, of helping to rewrite the all-time list.

"I think the triple jump at the Olympic Games is going to be the greatest triple jump in history," Conley suggested. "I think it is going to be the greatest track [athletics] event at these Olympics. I predict that three jumpers will go beyond 18 metres."

Conley is a man of so many talents that it is hard to know how he found time to stay near the top of triple jumping for ten years. He is a black belt in Taekwondo, a brown belt in combat karate, breeds ostriches and trains dogs, German

Shepherds and Rotweilers, for police service. He is at present seeking to become Constable of Fayetteville, his home town, where he also coaches a junior basketball team.

After the 1994 season, Edwards studied tapes of Conley to improve his technique and, the following summer, succeeded him as the world champion. Now Conley has been studying Edwards and has changed his foot placements. "I am looking to return the favour to him," Conley said.

While Edwards is the only Briton who starts as favourite to win a gold medal, Kelly Holmes, the second-most successful British athlete at the world championships last year, remained upbeat yesterday about her prospects of winning a medal in the 800 metres early next week. Holmes has missed training as a result of a hairline ankle fracture, but confirmed she would run through the pain and had been told that her injury should stand up to her vigorous competition.

Agassi finds pride to put shaky start behind him

FROM DAVID MILLER IN ATLANTA

ANDRE AGASSI wobbled. He was close to early elimination in a big tournament for the third time in the year: the French Open, Wimbledon and now the Olympic Games, where he is the No 1 seed. He survived, narrowly.

Yet afterwards, Agassi found himself being interviewed less as tennis player than as a man. What did the Games mean to this son of a former Iranian Olympic boxer? How did a multimillionaire relate to thousands of competitors who barely make ends meet?

Agassi gave straight answers. You almost felt sympathy for this triumphant refugee on the world's anti-hill of financial opportunity, someone who is prepared to wring every last hundred thousand dollars from his commercial partnership with an equipment manufacturer that shamelessly exploits



chaos, not well, it must be supposed, especially in the light of a concrete-vibrating obscenity delivered as Agassi squandered his initial winning position against Jonas Bjorkman, of Sweden, at 6-5 in the second set. Bjorkman had served for the first set at 5-4 and had two set points in the first tie-break before losing 7-6, 7-6.

"It was a close call," Agassi admitted, "but I stayed competitive throughout, managed to keep fighting. It's not great yet. I'll get better. I haven't found my game, my rhythm, my confidence. My forehead was struggling. At this altitude [3,000ft], the ball moves through the air quick, but was slow on the court, bouncing high." Victory secured, he meets Karol Kucera, of Slovakia, next in the second round and is seeded to play Goran Ivanisevic, of Croatia, in the final.

Agassi was glad to be back on his favourite surface — hard, cement courts. No, his arguments with Thomas Muster, of Austria, about surface preference were over. He was sorry Muster was absent, as well as his compatriots and long-time rivals, Sampras, Courier and Chang. He had never considered not coming. Why would anybody?

"It's disappointing, you miss something," he said. "To win is an all-time accomplishment. Absentees? You still have to win it, it's not an easy tournament by any means. I'll take the gold medal any way I can get it."

Those dark Arabian eyes rolled beneath the strangely shaven head with its stranger earrings when he was asked about the juxtaposition of wealth and the Olympic spirit. That he had to think about the answer implied sincerity. "How much you earn as an individual can be irrelevant as much as relevant," he answered. "There are a lot of great athletes [here] in great sports, where maybe they deserve to earn money. Just because you do, it doesn't mean you don't love your sport."

The way he battled against Bjorkman, when demonstrably out of touch, testified to his pride and his loyalty to the game.

Obree scrambles in vain pursuit

FROM PETER BRYAN

GRAEME OBREE'S hopes of an Olympic medal in the 4,000 metres pursuit ended at the first stage when he failed to qualify for a place in yesterday's quarter-finals. As he waited for his match against Bradley McGhee, of Australia, he saw, first, Chris Boardman's Olympic record broken and then, moments before he started, he had to sit through an even faster world-record time than his own, set by Andrea Collinelli, the Italian, whom he beat last year to win the world title.

Obree, who has tried to play down the effects of a persistent viral infection this year, never achieved the form he can produce. He knew that there would be no fast times from him. His slow start against McGhee was not unusual: he rides a high gear that takes at least two laps of the 250 metres track to get rolling. To allow for his lack of form, Obree rode to a schedule of 4min 30sec (nine seconds slower than his old world record) but one that he considered could get him fifth or sixth place. He steadily lost ground not only to McGhee but to his schedule.

His stretched-out riding position, resembling that of Superman, has been copied all over the world since he adopted it two years ago. Yesterday Obree was no Superman. Towards the end he slowed so much it was obvious. His time was a saddening 4:34.297, compared with Collinelli's new standard of 4:19.699 and left him trailing in eleventh place.

After his race, Obree, whose career has often been a minefield of disappointment, was quick to recover his humour. It could have been a mask; it must have been a mask, no sportsman could endure that sort of ignominy and remain balanced.

"As I waited to ride [Collinelli] rode in the previous heat. I felt like a lamb being led to the slaughter, an Olympic world record in the first round? I never thought that those sort of times would



Obree fails to keep up to the pace at Stone Mountain. Photograph: Marc Aspland

be done. I knew that on present form I had nothing in my legs to approach them. But I still felt I would do a 4:30." He denied that the fast times caused him to panic, though his concentration as he waited in the starting gate was spoilt by photographers hiding the lap board from his view. Obree waved them away.

Had he thought of pulling out because of his illness? "Not at all," he said. "I am here to represent my country. I don't quit."

Half an hour after his defeat, Obree was back in the saddle. He had decided to go for a training ride on his own to give him a chance to focus on the 62 kilometres road time-trial on Saturday week

which ends the cycling programme. Collinelli later set two new records when he beat his own Olympic and world bests to win his quarter-final against Andriy Yatsenko, of Ukraine, and qualified for today's semi-finals. The Italian rode his quarter-final round in 4:19.153, having caught his rival with 120 metres to go.

Lightweights take plaudits on mixed day

FROM MIKE ROSEWELL

GREAT Britain had a variable day at Lake Lanier yesterday. Early-morning elation prompted by the successes of the lightweight men was dispelled when both the British eight failed to reach their finals.

To their credit, the men's eight, who had to finish first or second, worked hard in their heat. They seemed to be losing contact with Canada, Russia and Italy in the third quarter but Richard Hamilton, the new stroke, pushed the rate to 40 at 1,500 metres. His crew responded and overhauled Italy but, although still gaining, they were two feet behind Russia, and qualification, at the line.

The women's eight seemed unable to shake off the disappointment of their



Monday defeat. They produced a better first 500 metres and, although fourth, were in the pack of six from which they had to be in the top four. By halfway, the Dutch had inched into that vital fourth place ahead of Britain, who in the outside lane, seemed unable to respond and were subsequently passed by Australia.

Defeat is always harder when others are celebrating and the lightweight double scull and men's four had earlier booked their semi-final slots. Nick Howe, the doubles coach, had to do some talking at 5.15am when he was refused

parking permission, but after that things went smoothly. After Monday's problems, the order was twofold — "Get the start right, then don't make mistakes." They did both. Leading at 500 metres, close behind the United States at 1,000 metres, Andy Sinton, the stroke, then stayed calm as the Cubans pushed hard. Britain remained in the second qualifying place.

The men's lightweight four was knocked out of its rhythm by a side-wash at 250 metres and dropped back from first to third. Calm prevailed, though, and they moved back through the field to be second to Ireland on the line in a blanket finish of four. Today there are five British crews in semi-final action: the coxless pair, the coxed four, the men's and women's skulls, and the women's pairs.

cy of the Cuban's attacks gave her the verdict.

Defeat meant that Fairbrother could not reach the final, but she still had an opportunity to collect a bronze. In her first bout in the repechage she overwhelmed Magali Baton, of France. Fairbrother twice countered her opponent and, although she was twice penalised for passivity, she knocked down Baton once more and came out a clear winner.

Kingston, the European champion who has been proving the most consistent of the British male fighters this year, began impressively, scoring twice on Sergei Kolesnikov of Russia.

Kingston then met James Pedro, of the United States, one of the most formidable opponents in the category. Pedro nimbly swung under the left arm of the Briton and threw him over his shoulder onto his back for an ippon. With Pedro losing in the next round Kingston was out of the competition and threatening to quit the sport. "I trained so hard for four years, you are ready for the competition and you lose. That is it for me," Kingston said. "I am not going out of judo bitter. I have done well in the sport."



relatively poor start; travelling in seventh on the beat, Beadsworth then hit the windward mark as he tried to sneak round in front of Jeff Madrigali, of the United States. He dropped to fifteenth but picked off a couple of boats on the run and then did even better on the last run to finish eighth. "We were very fast on the run, just hosed down it. We passed two more and gained around 500 yards," he added.

All Beadsworth needs to do is get into the top six at the end of the fleet-racing stage in order to qualify for the match racing knock-out phase, where the medals are decided. The overall leader is the former world champion, Jochen Schuemann, of Germany, with Madrigali second. One surprise which tends to improve Beadsworth's prospects is the poor showing by Magnus Holmberg, of Sweden. He would be a major threat in the match racing but with a twelfth, a tenth and a retirement with a broken forestay in race three, he is languishing in fifteenth.

Britain's Ben Ainslie had a horrible start to his Games when, in race one in the Lasers, he tried to cross the Korean boat on port and ended up taking a penalty. Ainslie then found himself in a thicker of boats and could not get clear air to get out of it. He finished in 27th, his worst result all year. In the second race, it looked just as bad as he went round the windward mark in a lowly eighteenth place, getting tangled up with other boats as he did so. This time, however, he was able to recover and, showing his customary fighting spirit and sheer speed on the water, finished in third.

In the Europe class, Shirley Robertson is third overall after two races, behind Kristine Roug, of Denmark, and Courtney Becker-Dey, of the United States.

Dougie enjoys just deserts

So, all those afternoons with the pensioners watching indoor bowls, those evenings fronting interminable snooker tournaments, were worth it after all. Dougie Donnelly got the beach volleyball. And so, at last, had we. Paul Palmer had put us on the medal table and Mo Glover and Audrey Cooper were about to kick sand in the faces of the deeply-tanned Dutch. Night five and things were definitely looking up.

Donnelly had decided that there was only one way to survive an encounter with this extraordinary sport and that was to take it completely seriously. Some might have succumbed to a risqué joke but not our Dougie. A man more accustomed to muttering "good wood" in green-carpeted sports halls, quickly got to grips with a new vocabulary of sun, sand, "jump serves" and "massive spikes". Like a latter-day Nelson, he saw no bikinis.

Even Des Lynam contented himself with "we'll be seeing them again... won't we?" at the game's conclusion. It was all very commendable... but what a shame nobody asked Stuart Hall.



MATTHEW BOND ON THE TELEVISION MARATHON

Beach volleyball was not the only X-certificate sport on Tuesday. There was the tennis. Not Mary Pierce and that dress again, but Andre Agassi taking on Jonas Bjorkman and the court-side microphones. "That was an audible obscenity," I'll warrant," John Barrett, the commentator, said. It certainly was. If Agassi had stood over the microphones and shouted, the condition of his forehead could not have been any clearer.

By now it was getting late, but I was determined to reach the magic 2.25am slot on the schedule, the one that normally has a great jumble of minor-

ish sports after it. Initially, it was all very encouraging. We had a bit of sailing with Malcolm McKeage, some boxing with Jim Neilly, a big chunk of weightlifting with David Vine, post-hockey chat with Nigel Starmer-Smith, some volleyball ("the gymnasium variety", as Steve Rider delicately put it) and some basketball. Lovely.

But, gradually, a horrible truth dawned on me — along with dawn itself, in fact. It was little things at first, such as the speed at which the medal ceremony followed Zhan Xugang's triumph in the 70-kilogram weightlifting competition (destined for fame after the MC very bluntly asked "what's his name?" over the public address system). Then there was that nagging worry about daylight. It was 4am in Britain, 11pm in Atlanta... so how come the sun was shining for the tennis and the sailing?

As Rider resorted to the past tense, the ghastly truth became clear. I — a man who has dedicated a fortnight of his life to doing the Games live — was watching... highlights. I hurled a very audible obscenity and went to bed.

ATLANTA BRIEFS

Snooker's chance to pot for gold

SNOOKER was yesterday confirmed as the latest sport to be welcomed into the ever-expanding list of Olympic events. The news was greeted positively by Stephen Hendry, the world champion. "It's the ambition of all sportsmen everywhere to compete at the highest level and there is no bigger stage," he said.

Football: Brazil recovered some of their battered prestige with a 3-1 victory over Hungary yesterday. However, Italy suffered another indignity, to follow their early exit from the European championship, as they went down 2-1 to Ghana and were eliminated. Juninho, Ronaldo, and Bebeto were the Brazil goalscorers.

Palmer raises the spirits

ALEX BENNETT



Olympic diary

Before I arrived in Atlanta, my expectations about the organisation and facilities here were very high. After all, this is the United States, the nation that does everything bigger and better. It should also know what to expect of an Olympics, having hosted the Games just 12 years ago. In Los Angeles, yet the longer I am here, the more bad experiences I have, the more horror stories I hear and the more disappointed I become.

At Georgia Tech Aquatic Centre, when the swimming is taking place, conditions for watching the competition and for the swimmers themselves are actually very good. I cannot complain as a spectator and, as a swimmer, I would be very happy to race in this pool.

However, if you want to go to the toilet at the centre or, as a spectator, try to leave the building, the problems begin. When you pay more than \$100 for tickets, I think you can expect more than a portaloos that does not flush and lacks a hand basin. There are severe human traffic jams when the crowd tries to leave at the end of competitions.

As far as what is happening

at other venues, I cannot tell you much at all. From what I hear, the atmosphere around the town is pretty good, but so far all I have seen is the pool, the house where I am staying, but not much more. At night, although there are places I'd like to go and people I'd like to see, I just look forward to getting to bed.

However, the British swimmers now have something to go out and celebrate about, thanks to Paul Palmer, of



Strug leaps, lands and collapses in agony, recovering for the presentations, flanked by Moceanu, left, and Miller, before being carried from the arena by Karolyi, her coach

Heroine joins Olympic hall of fame

Andrew Longmore salutes the courage of
Kerri Strug, America's latest golden girl

WHEN these Games are over, Atlanta should erect a statue to Kerri Strug. It would need to be very big. Lifesize would be a mere 4ft 9in tall. Because Strug has rescued the Olympics, diverted attention from all the bickering, the heat and the incompetence and produced a sporting story of courage and sacrifice translatable into every language in the world. If Muhammad Ali lit the Olympic flame, Kerri Strug from Tucson has set the Games alight.

Yesterday morning, Strug woke up to the adulation of the world's press and the uncomfortable realisation that in the moment of triumph her world has fallen apart. Great gymnasts are not remembered for winning team gold—but then Strug is not a great gymnast, she is a heroine, which is very different.

Over the past four years, Strug has wandered from gym to gym, punished her tough but tender little body day after day in search of individual

glory. At the age of 18, this was her last chance. She has always been cast as a support player, not as sassy as Shannon Miller nor as gifted as Dominique Moceanu, the 14-year-old American champion, the new Mary Lou Retton.

Standing on the runway, her heavily-strapped left ankle throbbing after her first missed vault, Strug had to make a choice that a selfish sport like gymnastics rarely requires. She could have limped away, claimed the sympathy vote and protected herself for the all-round event tonight, the blue ribbon of gymnastics. Instead, urged on by her coach, the ebullient Bela Karolyi, she ignored the pain, lifted her muscular little frame for one final effort and, in the ultimate act of the naturally-talented team player, leapt into history. What

went into those ten seconds only Strug will truly know. "I have had to deal with so much pain before," she said later. "I thought I could deal with one last vault. I said a little prayer before I went: 'Please God, help me out. I've done this vault a thousand times. Let me do it one more time.'" Never, in all those hours of flying, has she practised a one-legged landing.

A gymnast of Strug's ability should make the vault, a Yurchenko 1½, in her sleep. In front of 32,000 passionate spectators, with the United States team's first gymnastics gold at stake and the Russians a mere breath away, easy quickly turns impossible. Moceanu had missed the same vault twice. Strug once.

By a strange twist, the beneficiary of the sprained ankle could be Moceanu,

whose tiny shadow Strug has spent much of the last two years trying to cast off. Moceanu, the offspring of Romanian immigrants, was chosen for glory almost from birth and fed to the marketing moguls as soon as she could walk. She had the same eyes as Nadia Comaneci and, in Karolyi, the same coach as Comaneci and Retton. Karolyi was always ready with the quote. "This one is going to sparkle," he said. "She's dynamic."

Strug was never dynamic, but she was determined. Having tried gyms in Oklahoma City and Colorado, among others, the heart surgeon's daughter returned to the regime run by Karolyi and his wife, Martha, in Houston when the Romanian came out of retirement to coach Moceanu. Karolyi had coached Strug before the Barcelona Games, where the American team won a disappointing bronze. Strug finished fourteenth in the all-



round competition and Karolyi retired. "Little Kerri," Karolyi said, "she always hung around at the back. She didn't have the self-confidence, but she had the ethic to work very hard." It was tough and go whether Strug made the 1996 team.

Confusion was the dominant emotion on Strug's face as she was carried to the podium to receive her gold.

Unable to grasp the size of her achievement, she will probably not understand, until the Games are well over and the phone keeps ringing, what a name she has carved for herself in Olympic history. With luck, her ambition to go to college and become a doctor will not be swayed by the offers that will follow. College rules do not allow gymnasts to accept prize-money nor to have agents. Strug needs neither. Her fame will transcend dollars and cents, will survive long after a book called *The Making of an American Champion*, an account of the life and times of Dominique Moceanu, has fallen out of print.

There was one final, poignant moment. When the medals had been presented and the hands waved until they ached, six members of the team jumped from the podium. Strug was left alone, forgotten again, until Moceanu turned and helped her down.

HOCKEY

Simpson's vital strike puts Britain back in medal hunt

FROM SYDNEY FRISKIN

GREAT Britain bounced back into contention for the women's Olympic hockey title with a 1-0 victory over the United States, who had already beaten South Korea 3-2 in an exciting finish.

It was Britain's turn to provide the excitement in Tuesday's game, though, with Rhona Simpson, of Scotland, scoring in the 51st minute with one of the best goals seen so far in an open play. Britain should have taken the lead on the stroke of half-time. Tina Cullen and Jane Sixsmith split the American defence but Simpson, who had the final shot, missed the target by inches.

The United States were temporarily deprived of one of their defenders, Kris Fillat, who was sent off in the 44th minute for deliberately hitting the ball out of play after the whistle had been blown. They faced up to a short corner in her absence, but Britain failed to take advantage of it.

The pace quickened, with Britain having the edge, and the match was set alight when Simpson sent the ball flashing into the net from a cross-pass by Mandy Nicholls, who had come on as a substitute early in the first half.

The Americans doubled their effort and laid siege to the British goal, but they missed an easy chance to level the scores in the 63rd minute when a feeble shot by Laurel Martin was easily saved.

The match ended with Sixsmith covering ground for Britain at high speed and putting a shot against the outside of the boards.

GREAT BRITAIN: R. Rose, J. Adams, K. Johnson, K. Brown, S. Fraser, T. Miller, M. Davies, J. Bennett, S. Simpson, C. Cook, T. Cullen, M. Nicholls. Umpires: L. Croson (Argentina) and K. Yanoeda (Japan).

□ In the first of the men's pool A matches yesterday, India defeated the United States 4-0, after leading 2-0 at half-time. The Americans had few answers to the pressure exerted

on them by a powerful India side, who scored through Ramandeep Singh, from a penalty stroke. Dhanraj Pillay, who found the net twice, and Sanjeev Kumar. Australia beat South Korea 3-2 in a vital pool B match on Tuesday night to move into second place behind Holland on goal difference.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 39

FABIAN

(a) Delaying. Pertaining to, or after the manner of, Quintus Fabius Maximus, a Roman general who employed a strategy of delay in the Second Punic War, and which consisted in avoiding a battle, and weakening the enemy by cutting off supplies and by continual skirmishing. An epitaph from *Fabius*. "In vain sage Washington! Plays round his foes with more than Fabian skill."

GIMP

(b) A neckerchief or stonewasher worn by a nun. From the Old French *gimppe* a wrinkle. "Sliders in greyish green of idle drabs and wenchies in gimps [gimps, a nun's neckerchief] dispersed all over the kingdom."

FOHN

(c) A warm, dry south wind which blows down the valleys on the north side of the Alps. According to Grimm from the Romansch *favign*, Latin *Favonius*. "Builders had to guard against the fohn and other Swiss winds."

GRANILLA

(d) An inferior quality of cochineal, consisting of the dried bodies of small or half-grown cochineal insects. Spanish, the diminutive of *grana*. "There is often a second production of cochineal before the wet season sets in; if so, it is scraped off with a knife and dried, but it is of inferior quality, and is sold under the name of granilla."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... Rh1+2 Kxh1 Rh3+3 Kg1 Rh1+4 Kxh1 Qh5+5 Kg1 Qh2 mate.

TO READERS OF THE TIMES WE OFFER A WIDE RANGE OF TIMES PUBLICATIONS WITH FAST, EFFICIENT SERVICE PLUS FREE DELIVERY TO EU CUSTOMERS OF THE ITEMS LISTED BELOW AT RRP. SEND SAE FOR FURTHER DETAILS. STEERING CLEAR OF DOLLAR CHEQUES ONLY.

UNITED STATES: P. Shea, K. Fidd, B. Magill, J. Brown, L. Lyons, P. Ryan, C. Wray, T. Fuchs, M. Parnitz, K. James, A. Lucie. Substitutes used: L. Martin, L. Tcho, D. Mead, K. Kaufman.

SIMON BARNES



Atlanta sketch

paper paragraphs, a couple of minutes of highlights, and no more than a homeopathic dose of triumphalism.

I went to watch America and found a stadium half full. The crowd were no more than cheerfully partisan. I was watching American athletes in something close to a whoop-free zone, a rare privilege.

The highlight of the American performances has been the dramatic goalkeeping of Patty Shea. The Brits lined up against her badly needing a win; and South Korea had just beaten them 5-0.

In a match full of grit rather than flow, Britain broke away at the end of the first half and Jane Sixsmith, quadrupennally incarnate at this time and traditionally described as "the flame-haired striker", fired coolly and accurately at goal.

And there was Shea, aquaplaning through the sodden astroturf (this game looks as if it is played on a marsh rather than a field—your keep looking for snipe) to deny her.

Shea is 5ft 11in and ten stone, built for power rather than speed. She has played in goal

G oalies are members of a team who wear different clothes. But in hockey, on field or ice or marsh, the goalie wears as many clothes as possible, while all the rest wear as few. A women's hockey team is full of chunky stoppers and long-legged speedsters in kilts. Behind them stands a kind of dalek, masked, padded and gauntleted; the last word in defiance. They don't love goalkeepers sufficiently over here. Have I put my finger on a fundamental flaw in the American civilisation?

RADIO CHOICE

Chainless and on the boil

Volcano, Radio 4 (FM), 3pm.

In my book, any radio play starring Juliet Stevenson is an occasion to relish. If the play turns out to be a strong one, it is a bonus that makes me wonder what I did to deserve it. Peter Wolf's *Volcano* is earth-shattering stuff. Here is Stevenson, as a Victorian mother of eight children, never having travelled further than the end of her Yorkshire garden... here she is, I say, totting alone up the side of a New Zealand volcano. And why? Because she is sick to death of the "dinosaur chains that throttle and fetter a woman". Outwardly dead, like the volcano, she is boiling with fire inside. "I am an eruption," she cries. Women's lib never had such a rallying call.

On This Day, Radio 4 (LW), 10.15am.

"Making a bikini was really pushing the boat out!" says the woman remembering the advent of the minuscule two-piece swimsuit that raised conservative eyebrows fifty years ago. Her nautical metaphor is more apt than she realised. In Bikini Atoll, in the Pacific Ocean, the fifth underwater atom bomb test sank three redundant US Navy ships and damaged 31 others. July 25, 1946, was a day of high casualties in county cricket too. All ten Nottinghamshire wickets were captured by the same Warwickshire bowler. On This Day, which is proving a resounding success for Radio Four, also explains how, in the postwar days of bread shortage, one South Wales family got through 65 loaves a week.

Peter Daville

RADIO 1

FM Stereo 6.30am Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo 11.30 Radio 1 Breakfast 12.00am Lisa 1.30am Mark Goodier 2.00am Noddy Campbell 4.00am Mark Goodier 7.00am Evening Session 8.00am Colin and Moe's 10.00am The 10.00am Mark Radcliffe 12.00am Claire Sturgess 4.00am Clive Warren

RADIO 2

FM Stereo 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30am Wake Up to Wogan 9.30am Ken Bruce 11.30am Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thorne 3.00pm Ed Stewart 5.00pm Helen Sherwin 7.00pm "What If" Show. Ken Bruce hosts a new comedy sketch show 7.30pm David Allen 9.00pm Paul Jones 10.00pm Write the Songs: Roger Whittaker (4/5) 10.30pm The Jamesons 12.00am Steve Madden 3.00am Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00am The Olympic Breakfast Programme 6.30am The Magazine, with Diana Madill 12.00am Midday with Neil 2.00pm Inverdale's Olympics. The morning's news from Atlanta and swimming, tennis, cycling, rowing and Great Britain v Spain in the Test between England and Pakistan 5.30pm Nationwide 7.00pm Olympic Roundup 7.45pm Atlanta Live, with Sybil Ross and Ian Payne. Includes badminton, boxing, judo, tennis and yachting 10.00pm Night Extra 11.00pm Inverdale's Olympics, and swimming, badminton and Great Britain v Malaysia in the hockey 3.00pm All Night

TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Ross 10.00am Scott Chisholm 1.00pm Anna Haskoun 3.00pm Tony Byrne 7.00pm Peter Dealey 7.00pm Sport 10.00am James White 1.00pm Ian Collins

RADIO 3

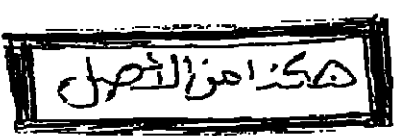
6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Handel (Concerto Grosso in C, Alexander's Feast); Beethoven (Triple Concerto in C); Handel (Sinfonia: Arrival of the Queen of Sheba); Solomon; Strauss (Machterblumen, Op 22 Nos 1-4); Schubert (Sinfonia in D, Der Tempel des Ruhmes); Stravinsky (Scheroza Fantastique) 9.00am Morning Collection with Paul Giamboacini. Bach (Concerto in C minor, BWV 1060); Beethoven (Piano Sonata in E flat, Op 106, Hammerklavier) 10.00am Musical Encounters. Theodorakis (Ode to Zeus) 10.00am From Artist of the Week: Andreas Schiff, piano 10.25am Beethoven Goldschmidt (Psalm 120); Reger (Variations and Fugue on Theme of Bach); Goldschmidt (Psalm 124) 11.10am Schumann (Symphony No 3 in E flat, French); Franck (Chorale No 2 in B minor) 12.00am Composer of the Week: Kurt Weill 1.00pm Slavaj John Allison presents a new series exploring the roots of Russian Opera. Ravelin — from Boris to Mazepa (1/4) 2.00am Mendelssohn, The Cherubini and Wagner Quartets. Mendelssohn (String Quartet, in A minor, Op 13; in E flat, Op 12; String Octet in E flat, Op 20) 3.30pm Preoccupations. Featuring the pianist Jon Kimura Parker 3.35pm The BBC Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, under David Atherton. With

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) 6.00am News Briefing and Weather 6.10am Farming Today 6.25am Prayer for the Day 6.30am Today and 7.25am, 8.25am Sport 7.45am Thought for the Day 8.40am Yesterday in Parliament 8.50am Weather 9.00am News 9.05am The Moral Maze 10.00am News: Minor Adjustment (FM only). By Andy and Eric Marmann. Peter Davidson and Samantha Bond star in a comedy about a family with a young daughter who has Down's syndrome (2/5) 10.00am Daily Service (LW only). See Choice 10.15am On This Day (LW only). See Choice 10.30am Woman's Hour 10.50am Test Match Special: England v Pakistan (LW only). The first day's play from Lord's 11.30am From Our Own Correspondent (FM only) 12.00am News: You and Yours (FM only) 12.25pm Out of Order (FM only) 12.55am Weather 1.00am The World at One 1.40am The Archers (1/1.55) Shipping Forecast 1.40am Test Match Special (LW only) 2.00am News: Volcano (FM only) 2.00am Test Match Special (LW only) 3.00am News: The Afternoon Shift (FM only) 4.00am News 4.05am Kaleidoscope (FM only). Paul Allen sees Ian Judge's new production of Shakespeare's *Titus Andronicus* 4.45am Short Story: The Last Campaign (FM only), by Mervyn Kelly

FREQUENCY GUIDE

RADIO 1, FM 97.8-99.8. RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.8. LW 198. MW 722. RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 625, 629. WORLD SERVICE, MW 648; LW 158 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO UK, MW 1053, 1088. Television and radio ratings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.



Family fortunes determine relative values

Television had dynasties written all over it last night, though there was no sign of Joan Collins. This was serious stuff, with little space for the frivolities of big hair and lip gloss. No, the venues were central Africa, Britain and Pakistan.

The last of these places is in the news, what with Borthum versus Imran Khan in court and England versus Pakistan beginning today at Lord's. But these are manufactured epics, a mere sampler album compared to the intricate double-CD that is Pakistan itself.

The Dynasty (BBC2) is a three-part series about one of Pakistan's most powerful families. This is a fascinating study of a complex country for which pundits have long been offering answers, only to be frustrated by the fact that the questions keep changing.

There are about 500 feudal families which run Pakistan. Abida Hussain, a former Amba-

sador to Washington, is the matriarch of one of these families and she is the focus of the series.

Abida is a femme formidable, educated, cultured, strong-willed. Her family is Shia Muslim, which is only one source of their problems: fundamental Sunnis, from whom the Shias broke several hundred years ago, regard the Shias with contempt.

Abida's family owns huge swaths of land, mostly planted with sugar cane, which is leased to tenant farmers. She was filmed holding court over one of the innumerable land disputes which wrack Pakistani society. Land reform is to Pakistan what integrated transport policy is to Britain: a "good thing" which nobody will bring about.

At one of Abida's hearings, a poor family claimed to have been pushed off their land at gunpoint. Abida, her Western diplomatic training on show, offered a com-

promise: cool off and attend another meeting. The parties went away. The second meeting? Neither turned up.

Abida needs the votes of such people. She gave up her parliamentary seat to become an ambassador. Her mother stood for election, but lost. So now Abida's husband, Fakher — who is also her cousin — is the family's only parliamentary voice.

Fakher does not immediately come across as a man of warmth, a kisser of babies. When a beggar wanders up to the family home, Fakher studiously ignores the man. Eventually he says to a servant: "Give him some money and get rid of him."

The first programme ended with Abida's son returning from Yale for a religious festival. He represents one of the many fascinations of Pakistan: a ruling elite mostly educated at English public schools

REVIEW



Peter Barnard

and American universities, trying to reconcile Islam, feudalism and Western capitalism.

Not that being a Pakistani in Britain is any easier. I am not sure why to make of Seed (BBC2), the latest short drama in a season called *Double Exposure*, the work of writers new to television. Seed, by Bradley Cole, was an allegory set in Birmingham and had to do with ethnic and family pressures.

The lead players, a white male, a black male and a girl from a Pakistani family, agonised about family demands and their needs as individuals, a dilemma explored while the two young men combined to take over a derelict site and turn it into a field of wheat.

I think the message was about the inevitability of some seed falling on stony ground: while the wheat flourished, the young white was attempting to take his illegitimate child from his mother, with tragic consequences. As with the doomier two days after a postal strike, I felt there were too many messages lying around.

And so to central Africa and a fabulous piece of work from Anglia's Television Survival, which I notice has now become its own limited company. Gosh, Survival! Special: A Space in the Heart of Africa (ITV) was about that greatest of all inter-dependent dynasties, the animal kingdom.

Alan Root's programme is the fruit of eight years spent in Zaire. The theme is the delicate balance in rainforests and it offered conclusive proof that we must about with such lands at our peril, not to mention the peril of its inhabitants.

How is a clearing formed in the forest, so that the growth can be renewed? I am so pleased you asked. Tropical storms sometimes demolish large trees, but if not, elephants banging through the undergrowth have the same effect. The tree falls down and suddenly ten times the previous amount of light is let in.

Vegetation, too long kept in the dark, leaps upwards. Elephants eat some of it, but their dung makes fertile soil for yet more species. The growth provides cover for animals, who therefore thrive. In this environment there lives a variety of animals who have more

sense than a dozen government quangoes welded together.

There is, for example, a type of antelope that lives well, without having to search for food. This creature follows monkeys about the place. The monkeys knock fruit off trees and the antelope comes along behind and eats the fruit. Another antelope, the Water Chevrotain, escapes predators by diving into water. It walks along the bed of the stream with its eyes open. We know this, because Root filmed it happening.

But none of this would happen without the clearing work done by elephants. Unfortunately, men with guns are out trying to shoot elephants so that people can hang bits of ivory from their persons. Which is more worthy of preservation, a man with a gun shooting elephants for money or an antelope clever enough to get a monkey to do his food shopping? I couldn't agree more.

CHOICE

Sir: The Gaps in the Ranks Need Filling (BBC2, 7.30pm)

The series based on letters to *The Times* moves on to 1916, the year of the Easter Rising in Dublin, the Battle of the Somme and Lloyd George becoming Prime Minister. But in previous programmes it is the letters peripheral to the big events that stay in the memory longest. One writer complains about sex and violence in the cinema, so nothing much has changed there, while another urges servants to give up meat and put the money saved towards war bonds. For one soldier on the Western Front the main problem is not of mud and death but an extraordinary richness of bird life. Oblivious to the artillery, nightingales sing on. More seriously, and surprisingly, there is much criticism of the conduct of the war. Cartoons, headlines and archive film provide a visual frame.

The Street (BBC2, 8.00pm)

Television's brief to inform as well as entertain is well exemplified in this new consumer series, which serves up advice in highly viewable form. The idea is to pick a street, ask the residents what is irking them and challenge a team of experts (architect, barrister, doctor) to offer solutions. Kirsty Young, from *Holiday 96* and *Film 96*, is the breezy presenter. The show takes off in a village in Co Durham, built mainly in the 1970s and populated by middle-class commuters. Residents are worried that an unfenced building site is a danger to children. Also featured are an elderly widower crippled with arthritis, a former coach driver in litigation over an accident in France and a woman who wants to stop cats fouling her garden. Telephone numbers and fact sheets are part of a backup service.

Secret History: The Whitechapel Murders (Channel 4, 9.00pm)

The shelves are overloaded with books claiming to reveal the identity of Jack the Ripper and if the evidence for any of the many candidates is a long way short of conclusive, the Ripper industry continues to thrive. David Jensen's documentary at least gets away from the usual names and points the finger at a man who has rarely, if at all, figured in the Ripper literature. There are two reasons for thinking he was the killer. All the circumstantial evidence fits: he was in the right place at the right time and had a hatred of women. Secondly, he appears to have been the police's own prime suspect. It is doubtful, all the same, whether there is enough to convict him, though the continued fascination of the Ripper story is precisely that nobody has managed to write the definitive final chapter.

Atletico Paritak (BBC1, 10.00pm)

Ian Pattison, best known among many comedy credits as the creator of *Out of Control*, is the author of this Scottish-based sitcom about a struggling pub football team. Before hatters of the game groan at the prospect, it must be emphasised that the show is as much concerned with what happens off the field as on it. Wives, particularly, are a major focus. The basic joke is to contrast the turmoil of the domestic front with the male camaraderie of pub and playing field. But there is even a twist on this when one of the players drafts in his mother to make up a depleted team. On the early evening this is a raucous, vulgar but not unlikeable series which makes up in vigour what it lacks in subtlety. Gordon Kennedy is the most familiar face among a lively ensemble cast. Peter Waymark

6.00am GMTV (1139941)

9.25 Halfway Across the Galaxy and Turn Left (ITV) (6418039) **9.50 Hope and Gloria** (797632)

10.20 News headlines (9353274)

10.25 HTV News (Teletext) (9352545)

10.30 A Woman Named Jackie. Mini-series dramatising the life of Jackie Kennedy Onassis (86961903)

12.20 HTV News (Teletext) (2185835)

12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (9699212)

12.55 Shortland Street (s) (9674903) **1.25 Coronation Street** (r) (Teletext) (5834308) **2.00 Home and Away** (Teletext) (s) (61574748)

2.25 FILM: This Wife for Hire (1985). Constance of the yesterday's film starring Pam Dawber and Robert Klein. Directed by James R. Drake (7774477)

3.20 News (915496) **3.25 HTV News** (914767)

3.30 The Riddlers (3369564) **3.40 Wizards** (1024090) **3.50 Mollie's Gang** (3363380) **4.05 Animaniacs** (4587332) **4.20 Blazing Dragons** (5638316) **4.45 The Scoop** (504896)

5.10 A Country Practice (s) (7455767)

5.40 News (Teletext) and weather (583816)

6.00 Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (s) (333308)

6.25 HTV News (Teletext) (591941)

7.00 Emmerdale. Turner gives Tary some good advice (Teletext) (s) (8274)

7.30 The Big Story. Dermot Murtagh returns (7.30pm)

8.00 The Bill. A drug-dealer's beautiful wife turns informant (7.52)

8.30 Police, Camera, Action: International introduced by Alastair Stewart (r) (Teletext) (s) (3729)

9.00 Heartbeat. Nick is called in when Greengrass attempts to take the law into his own hands (r) (Teletext) (s) (5038)

10.00 News (Teletext) and weather (17922)

10.30 HTV News (Teletext) (s) (28854)

10.40 Unbridled Passions. Following the preparations of one of Philip Hobbs's best horses, Gold Cup, in the run up to the Grand National (423233)

11.10 Sumner Getaways (Teletext) (s) (401075)

11.40 Bodies of Evidence (r) (734922)

12.35 Carnal Knowledge (8454959)

1.35 Not Fade Away (s) (7703152)

2.35 Flux (s) (3835588)

3.35 Late & Loud (r) (s) (9410959)

4.30 The Time ... the Place (r) (s) (74997)

5.00 Grass Roots (r) (Teletext) (s) (19572)

5.30 Morning News (37881)

As HTV WEST except:

6.25pm-7.00 Wales Tonight (591941)

7.30-8.00 Knowing My Place (583)

10.40 The Greatest Show on Welsh Earth (423293)

11.10-11.40 The Big Story (401075)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

10.30am Film: A Town Torn Apart (43714748)

12.55 Emmerdale (9674903)

1.25-1.55 Cross Wits (61427564)

1.55 Home and Away (92711632)

2.25 Sixth Sense (6157835)

2.55-3.20 A Country Practice (7249941)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7455767)

6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (52583)

10.30 Westcountry News (617106)

10.45 On the Edge (587125)

11.15 Roadrunner (584038)

11.45 Prisoner Cell Block H (267835)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

10.30am Film: A Town Torn Apart (86961903)

12.55pm Home and Away (9674903)

1.25 Cross Wits (61427564)

1.55 A Country Practice (78339361)

2.20 Sixth Sense (61578564)

2.50-3.20 High Road (9373038)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street. New Zealand soap (7455767)

6.25 Central News and Weather (918729)

10.40 London Bridge (423293)

11.10-11.40 Revelations (401075)

12.40am Carnal Knowledge (8446830)

1.40 Not Fade Away (7702423)

2.40 Flux (7085862)

3.35 The Crime Hour (9410959)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: 9.50-10.20 Sandokan (7977632) **10.30 Worzel Gummidge Down Under** (25941) **11.00 Dogbanian and the Three Musketeers** (3745038) **11.25 Go Getters** (3748125) **11.55 Dungeons and Dragons** (2626564) **12.55pm Emmerdale** (9674903) **1.25 Home and Away** (61427564) **1.55 Shortland Street** (78339361) **2.20 Sixth Sense** (61578564) **2.50-3.20 Sumner Getaways** (9373038) **5.10 Home and Away** (7455767) **6.00 Meridian Tonight** (449) **6.30-7.00 Grass Roots** (689) **10.40 Film: In the Line of Duty — Mob Justice** (7072632) **12.35am Phoenix** (8454959)

S4C

Starts: 6.35 Star Street (8209670) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (54038) **9.00 California Dreams** (8407545) **9.25 The Secret World of Alex Mack** (5406322) **9.55 Served by the Bell: The College Years** (9000748) **10.20 Pink Panther** (r) (s) (5280274) **10.45 Rocko's Modern Life** (r) (s) (4539816) **11.05 Crystal Maze** (8802800) **12.00 Mark and Mandy** (14835) **12.30pm Lonely Planet** (42106) **1.00 Slot Meltrinn** (57125) **1.30 Tellytoons** (8698953) **1.55 Alien Attack** (5406322) **2.20 Er Macyn** (1615251) **2.15 Rock Lake** (8055564) **4.00 Backstage** (312) **4.30 The Legend of Painted Rock** (496) **5.00 5 Pump: Superted** (9380) **5.30 Countdown** (748) **6.00 Newyddion** (782380) **6.15 News** (217477) **7.00 Pabot Y Cwm** (27458) **7.25 Rap** (879551) **8.00 Y Sioe Fawr** (6554) **8.30 Tawelwrdd** (4920) **8.50 Er Macyn** (1615251) **9.00 Yr Eghwys Heddw** (5309) **9.30 Human Jungle** (55670) **10.00 Film: A Room with a View** (57248941) **10.55am Cinefile: Robert Altman — Giggle and Give** (r) (7378997)

PARAMOUNT

7.00pm Family Tie (3632) **7.30 Entertainment Tonight** (6109) **8.00 Wings** (2583) **8.30 Lawrence and Shirley** (1099) **9.00 Scooby Doo** (8553) **9.30 The Simpsons** (1000) **10.00 Entertainment Tonight** (6109) **10.30 The Simpsons** (1000) **11.00 The Simpsons** (1000) **11.30 The Simpsons** (1000) **12.00 The Simpsons** (1000)

UK LIVING

6.00am Killy (1259782) **7.00 Esther** (267767) **7.30 The Young and the Restless** (487259) **8.30 Gladiators and Glamour** (144038) **9.00 The Bill** (17922) **9.30 The Bill** (17922) **10.00 The Bill** (17922) **10.30 The Bill** (17922) **11.00 The Bill** (17922) **11.30 The Bill** (17922) **12.00 The Bill** (17922)

NICKELODEON

6.00am SpongeBob in Pyjamas (447564) **6.15 Mr Men** (1442306) **6.30 Bearly Bored** (90693) **7.00 Lullaby Land** (12099) **7.30 Turtles** (1000) **8.00 Turtles** (1000) **8.30 Turtles** (1000) **9.00 Turtles** (1000) **9.30 Turtles** (1000) **10.00 Turtles** (1000) **10.30 Turtles** (1000) **11.00 Turtles** (1000) **11.30 Turtles** (1000) **12.00 Turtles** (1000)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Legends of History (136729) **5.00 The Tower** (1000) **5.30 The Tower** (1000) **6.00 Beyond 2000** (827838) **7.00 Wild Things** (9000) **7.30 Wild Things** (9000) **8.00 Wild Things** (9000) **8.30 Wild Things** (9000) **9.00 Wild Things** (9000) **9.30 Wild Things** (9000) **10.00 Wild Things** (9000) **10.30 Wild Things** (9000) **11.00 Wild Things** (9000) **11.30 Wild Things** (9000) **12.00 Wild Things** (9000)

BRAVO

12.00 The Adventures of Robin Hood (557347) **12.30pm The Adventures of Robin Hood** (557347) **1.00 The Adventures of Robin Hood** (557347) **1.30 The Adventures of Robin Hood** (557347) **2.00 The Adventures of Robin Hood** (557347) **2.30 The Adventures of Robin Hood** (557347) **3.00 The Adventures of Robin Hood** (557347) **3.30 The Adventures of Robin Hood** (557347) **4.00 The Adventures of Robin Hood** (557347) **4.30 The Adventures of Robin Hood** (557347) **5.00 The Adventures of Robin Hood** (557347)

6.35am Star Street (r) (8209670)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (54038)

9.00 California Dreams (r) (8497545)

9.25 The Secret World of Alex Mack (r) (s) (5406322) **9.55 Served by the Bell: The College Years** (r) (Teletext) (9000748)

10.20 Pink Panther (r) (s) (5280274)

10.45 Rocko's Modern Life (r) (s) (4539816) **11.05 Crystal Maze** (r) (s) (8802800) **12.00 House to House** (44955) **12.30pm Lonely Planet** (r) (s) (Teletext) (42106) **1.00 Sesame Street** (r) (s) (779941) **1.55 Son for Sol** (78337903)

2.20 FILM: Confession (1937, b/w) with Kay Francis, Basil Rathbone and Ian Hunter. A Polish cabaret singer is put on trial for shooting a philanthropic musician. Directed by Joe May (Ceefax) (884060)

4.00 Backstage (s) (Ceefax) (212) **4.30 Countdown** (s) (Ceefax) (496) **5.00 Rick Lake** (s) (Ceefax) (5538212) **5.45 Tellytoons** (127802)

6.00 Ernie Indiana (r) (Teletext) (361)

6.30 Boy Meets World. Tompage decides that she and Chad should split up. He tells her that he loves her (s) (941)

7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) (938670)

7.50 The Slot (51038)

8.00 Black Bag. As Scotland Yard's anti-street robbery operation, Eagle Eye, comes to the end of its first year, *Black Bag* gains unprecedented access to the black police officers who have been running the operation and discovers just who is responsible for the majority of muggings (Ceefax) (5564)

8.30 Home to Roost. Henry agrees to teach his son to drive (r) (Ceefax) (4699)

Secret History: The Whitechapel Murders (s) (Ceefax) (5380)

10.00 FILM: Privates on Parade (1982) with Dennis Quaid, John Cusack, Michael Elphick and Nicola Pagett. Accented adaptation of the 1977 stage success about the tragicomic experiences of a British army entertaining unit in Singapore in 1948. Directed by Peter Nichols and Michael Blakemore (Ceefax) (57248941)

12.05am Adult Ricki (s) (7554719)

12.50 Kids in the Hall. A showcase for Canadian comedians (r) (Teletext) (785688)

1.25 Beavis and Butthead (r) (s) (2181336)

1.55 Let the Blood Run Free. Dr Lovelich decides to use his surgical skills to fulfil a last fantasy (r) (3592798)

2.20 FILM: Custody (1987) with Judith Stroud and Peter Brown. A real-life official of the legal profession mix with actors in this dramatisation of the breakdown of a marriage and the battle for custody in the Family Court. Directed by Ian Munro (926189). Ends at 4.00

7.00am MTV Unplugged (18306) **8.00 Morning Mix** (72051) **11.00 Star Trek** (94728) **12.00 Greatest Hits** (86969)



RUGBY UNION 36

McGeechan the pride of Lions once again

SPORT

THURSDAY JULY 25 1996

HOCKEY 42

Great Britain upset the hosts in Atlanta



Sri Lanka
mountain
die in

Hill left in limbo by rumours of Frentzen deal



Frentzen: option last year

By OLIVER HOLT

DAMON HILL warned his supporters before the British Grand Prix that a season that looked deceptively like plain sailing could be pitched into choppy waters at any time and yesterday the storm hit. Worrying about his world championship lead being whittled down to 15 points was bad enough but now there are even fears that his career is on the line.

Hill's preparations for the German Grand Prix at Hockenheim on Sunday were hurried into disarray last night when claims emerged that Williams had signed the highly-rated German, Heinz-Harald Frentzen, to drive for the team next season as a partner for Jacques Villeneuve, whether the Englishman clinches the title or not.

Williams denied that any deal has been struck but a respected source close to the team insisted yesterday that agreement with Frentzen had already been reached. Instead of worrying about protecting his lead over Villeneuve, Hill will first seek crisis talks with his employer when he arrives in Germany today after a test session in the south of France.

"I know that the deal with Frentzen has already happened," a source said in the reputable motor racing magazine, *Autosport*. "I think it is wrong that a guy like Hill goes in there and gives his all and then his feelings, his career and his emotions are treated in this way. It is not the first time."

Ironically, the claims come at a time when Hill's position in the team seemed to be stronger than ever. He has managed to banish

most of the doubts about his future this year with a series of inspired performances that have left his arch-rival, Michael Schumacher, toiling in his wake in his Ferrari. If Williams do discard him, he is almost certain to be snapped up by another leading team, probably Benetton.

Williams gamble 1

One explanation for the revelation is that it could be part of a bigger picture, a wages game being played by Williams to try to worry Hill out of his demands for a £12 million salary next season. His contract expires at the end of this year and, with Williams having no first claim on his services, he has

looked forward to negotiating while "footloose and fancy-free".

Other information, though, points to a worse scenario for the Englishman. Other teams, including Jordan-Peugeot, were deep in discussion with Frentzen about a drive for next season before the French Grand Prix at Magny-Cours last month. Then, Frentzen and his management withdrew suddenly from all negotiations and have remained silent since.

It is also known that Williams is casting round for a new engine partner for the 1998 season after Renault withdrew at the end of next season and the German giants, BMW, are prime candidates. The presence of Frentzen, who many rate as possessing more natural speed than Schumacher even though he has never won a race, in

the team would be an irresistible carrot to dangle in front of them.

Frentzen, 29, who has competed in 42 grands prix with a best finish of third place in Italy last year, has had a poor season with Sauber-Ford by his own standards, having grown demotivated by the car's mediocre performance. But he has remained a target for the top teams after consistently impressing in Formula One. Frank Williams, head of the Williams team, was close to signing Frentzen for this season, before he plumped for Villeneuve but he kept an option on the German's services for next season. That expired in May this year but it now appears it was reactivated and Williams may finally have taken it up.

Williams, who dropped Nigel Mansell at the end of 1992 after he

had won the world championship, and then repeated the feat by losing Alain Prost at the end of the following year after he had clinched the title, always refuses to discuss contract details and yesterday he claimed ignorance of the Frentzen deal. "It is news to me," he said. "The only driver I have signed for 1997 is Jacques Villeneuve."

Hill's manager, Michael Breen, poured scorn on the rumours. "Williams are keen to retain Damon," he said. "The idea Frentzen has been signed is fanciful."

Frentzen's manager, Ortwin Podlech, though, was more enigmatic. "We are still working on it but at the moment there is no movement," he said. "We thought we were very close to the situation last year and we failed and now the whole game starts again."

Cash problems give Palmer sinking feeling

FROM CRAIG LORD IN ATLANTA

PAUL PALMER, who in the presence of the Princess Royal became Britain's first medal-winner of these Olympic Games, issued a warning that the nation would "fall further and further behind" the rest of the world if it did not plough money into sport.

The 21-year-old from Lincoln, riding high on the back of a silver medal in the 400 metres freestyle at the Georgia Tech pool, said he trained in "Third World facilities with school kids all about me. My City Council [Lincoln] has even taken water time off me. It's really not a question of pleading for support and a

sponsor any more. I'm begging." He plans to find an agent.

Palmer swam a magnificent tactical race on Tuesday, he and his coach, Ian Turner, having changed the game-plan at the eleventh hour. Palmer was to have shadowed Danyon Loader, the New Zealander who won the 200 metres on the first day of competition, in lane six. Palmer, in lane seven, afraid of being lured into a slow race and unable to sprint at the end, decided he would "just get in and go for it", conscious that he had trained for such a race.

The plan almost worked, with Palmer leading the race for 150 metres from halfway, before Loader took charge with 50 metres to go. Palmer hung on as Loader sprinted for home, unaware of the danger of Daniel Kowalski, of Australia, in lane two. The Briton's time, of 3min 49.00sec, was just shy of his British record and 1.03sec behind Loader, with Kowalski third in 3min 49.39sec.

Palmer said: "I just kept thinking kick, kick, if not now, when? This is the biggest moment of my life. You've got to pull out all the stops — it's what I've worked my whole life for. The pain was really getting to me."

The last Briton to win a medal over 400 metres was John Hatfield at Stockholm in 1912, while Bobby MacGregor's silver in the 100 metres in Tokyo in 1964 was Britain's only freestyle medal of the modern era.

Turner said that Palmer, who trains in a 25-metre pool, half the size of an Olympic pool, would need a 50-metre facility if he were to find the kind of form that would win an Olympic title in Sydney in 2000.

"He also needs money. He's 22 before Christmas and he's fallen back on his parents' an awful lot. He needs a place of his own," Turner, who has coached Palmer since he was a young boy, said. "Paul will drop out if the funding is not available. If he doesn't get funded properly he won't stay in the sport."

Palmer acknowledged the support of the Sports Aid Foundation, without which he would be "facing a heavy overdraft". He said he hoped Britain could rise to a level of vision in which the likes of Turner could be set up as a coach in one of the 50-metre pools to be built with lottery money and that swimmers of his calibre could be funded to train there.

After his victory, Palmer said a special thank-you to a group of his friends who had gathered in a pub in Lincoln to watch the race. "They've helped me keep my feet on the ground and made sure I've got a diversion from swimming so I don't get too bogged down in it. Whenever we sleep over at a friend's house, they always

make sure I get the bed. We're off, 13 of us, to Headingley the weekend I get back to watch a couple of days of the Test match. It's going to be a good day."

Palmer was not the only Briton reflecting on glories past, as Sarah Hardcastle, 27, became the first British woman to make an Olympic swimming final since 1984, when she won silver and bronze medals. "This makes it all worthwhile," Hardcastle said of her return to the sport and her victory in a time of 3min 37.54sec over defending Olympic champion Janet Evans, of the United States, in the heats of the 900 metres freestyle. The final is today. Penny Heyns, who became South Africa's first Olympic champion since 1952 in the 100 metres breaststroke on Sunday, added the 200 metres title in an Olympic Games record of 2min 25.41sec, holding off a storming finish by the 14-year-old American Amanda Beard, who collected her second silver medal of the Games. Agnes



Results 39
Atlanta guide 40
Agassi's score 41
Simon Barnes 42

Kovacs, of Hungary, was third in a European record of 2min 26.57sec.

The United States collected a further three titles yesterday: Amy van Dyken beating Liu Lirui, the world champion from China, by just 0.01sec,

while Jeff Rouse banished for good the nightmare of Barcelona in 1992, where he broke his own world record for 100 metres backstroke in the medley relay but lost the individual race to Mark Tewksbury, of Canada. His victory in 54.10sec here was 0.06sec slower than he swam four years ago for the silver medal, but a class apart from the rest.

Michelle Smith, who has collected Ireland's first two swimming gold medals already, set herself up for another in the 200 metres medley yesterday, though she complained of a shoulder injury and a pain in her ribs.

For Britain, Nick Gillingham was the oldest qualifier, at 29, for the final of the 200 metres breaststroke, an event in which he won the silver in Seoul and the bronze in Barcelona, but the women's 4 x 100 metres medley relay team performed poorly to finish thirteenth in the heats in a time 1.5sec slower than the British team of 1980 in Moscow.

England lose Hussain and Lewis

By SIMON WILDE

THE task of England's cricket selectors was brutally simplified yesterday when Nasser Hussain and Chris Lewis were declared unfit for the first Test match against Pakistan at Lord's, starting today. A party of 13 was thus reduced to 11 fit men.

Simon Brown, who would probably have missed out had Lewis been fit, will therefore make his international debut, while Hussain's absence ensures a return for Nick Knight, who missed the last two Tests against India because of a damaged hand. Knight will open the innings, with Stewart dropping down to No 3.

Lewis's withdrawal was the less expected, as he had shown no sign of his high strain during demonstrations of the "Sword Sniper" — which will measure bowlers' speeds during the match — the previous day.

Lewis performed only briefly in the nets yesterday before declaring himself

short of the full fitness that David Lloyd, the England coach, had demanded of his players. "He is feeling sore," Lloyd said, "and reacting to anything he does."

More predictably, Hussain's broken right index finger has not healed. He tested it in the nets but, even in batting against groundstaff bowlers, he was clearly experiencing discomfort. "I gave

Cork can rise 38
John Woodcock 38
Scoreboards 38

myself every chance," he said, "but my finger was jarring against some balls. I am disappointed but, if I had played here or for Essex, it could have been the end of my season."

Hussain now hopes to be fit for his country's NatWest Trophy quarter-final tie against Hampshire at Southampton on Tuesday.

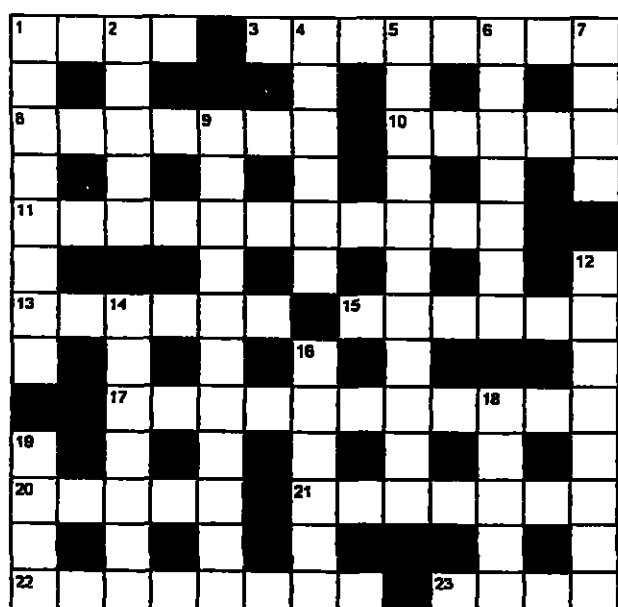
In a match which Wasim Akram, the Pakistan captain, believes will produce a positive result, England will thus field a five-man bowling attack boasting only 24 caps. Inexperience in this department is nothing new in recent years, however, and Michael Atherton, the England captain, remained bullish. "We should not be afraid to throw people in," he said.

Atherton arrived at the ground at noon, in time to take part in England's 90-minute net session, and having finally made his appearance in the witness box at the High Court. After discussions involving lawyers acting for the Test and County Cricket Board, he was permitted to give his evidence early and should not be called away again.

By contrast, the Pakistan camp had no injury problems. Waqar Younis made light of his recent hamstring trouble by looking fit and fast in practice and a decision on whether to play three seamers or two spinners will be made this morning.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 843 in association with
BRITISH MIDLAND



ACROSS

- 1 Crop; the unacceptable sticks in it (4)
- 3 Jan 6 festival (8)
- 8 Permitted (7)
- 10 Allude (5)
- 11 Potential trouble source (Gk. myth) (8,3)
- 13 Irish Protestant colour (6)
- 15 Artist's workplace (6)
- 17 Resolving bad feeling (5,3,3)
- 20 Tip over (5)
- 21 Flower wreath (7)
- 22 Counteracting remedy (8)
- 23 Little dam (4)

DOWN

- 1 Defender; winner (8)
- 2 Exhausted (3,2); inclusive (3-2)
- 4 Itinerant salesman (6)
- 5 Pig-product tradesman (4,7)
- 6 Fastened (7)
- 7 Distance; area round house (4)
- 9 Obstinately misguided (5-6)
- 12 Young car thief (8)
- 14 Very old (7)
- 16 Alarm, fear (6)
- 18 Proverb (5)
- 19 Metamorphosing ex-larva (4)

PRIZES:

THE WINNER will receive a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on British Midland's domestic or international network. THE RUNNER-UP will receive a return ticket to anywhere on British Midland's domestic network. British Midland offers an extensive range of departure and destination points throughout the UK as well as Europe. As the UK's second largest scheduled service airline and Heathrow's second biggest user, it operates a fleet of 35 aircraft on over 1200 flights per week throughout the UK and Europe. All flights are subject to availability.



Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address

SOLUTION TO No. 842

ACROSS: 1 Teacup 5 Chit 9 Chicane 10 Chrome 11 At a pinch 12 Ending 15 Starza 18 Starlers 20 Gocha 22 Laid out 23 Sign 24 Expert
DOWN: 2 Excite 3 Crispian 4 Plain 6 Hour 7 Turnman 8 Lecher 13 Duck Soup 14 Basil 16 Thomas 17 Crater 19 Alice 21 Craig

Tokyo a

SENSIBLE
LOANS

from
13.8%
DO

THE BRIGHTON THISTLE

A Luxury Break in
Beautiful Brighton

Stay at the 5-star
Brighton Thistle
for just

£44.50
per person per night
including breakfast

Occupying a premier position on the promenade, The Brighton Thistle is one of the finest hotels in Brighton. Elegant and comfortable, with 204 luxurious bedrooms, superb restaurants and an impressive range of leisure facilities, including an indoor swimming pool, gym, sauna and solarium, it is just minutes from the Royal Pavilion and the elegant boutiques and antique shops of the 'Lancet'. And with our special offer, you can enjoy all the beauty of Brighton at a very special price.

CHILDREN WELCOME!

Sharing a room with 2 adults.
Under 6: stay and eat FREE.
6-15: stay free, £5 each day for breakfast

Half board just £57 per person per night
Children 6-15: £10 each per day for meals

Ask your travel agent to book through
Highlife on Freephone 0800 700400.

Or call the hotel on

01273 206700

PLEASE QUOTE REFERENCE TT2507

Offer price based on two people sharing a double or twin room for a minimum of two nights. Additional nights £44.50 bed and breakfast, £57.00 half board. Bookings subject to limited availability. All details correct at time of going to press. Offer ends 1.9.96.

Colonia

Now with

0800 82

LINES ARE OPEN MON

at least of £5,000 or more

Sri Lanka's agony mounts as dozens die in train blasts

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN COLOMBO

DOZENS of rush-hour commuters were killed last night and up to 500 injured in explosions on a packed train seven miles south of Colombo, the Sri Lankan capital. The passengers had boarded minutes before after being ordered off for a bomb search.

The blue and red diesel train, which left Colombo at 5.15pm, was standing at the small station of Dehiwela after a soldier became suspicious of a bag. Passengers were milling around on the station while bomb disposal officers hurried to the scene. Before they arrived, however, railway officials instructed the train to move away from the platform and passengers, believing this amounted to the all-clear, boarded again.

Two carriages were blown apart by what are thought to have been separate devices, and part of the station was demolished. A survivor said: "The station was filled with smoke. When it cleared, I saw people fallen all over the

station." The injured, found lying amid smouldering debris, were carried in cars, buses and scooter rickshaws through traffic to nearby hospitals, which are ill-equipped for such a disaster.

Last night's initial death toll of around 50 is expected to rise substantially in coming days. One hospital which admitted 275 of the injured said last night that at least 70 were fighting for their lives.

It was the first big attack on Colombo by the Tamil Tigers since they tore apart the city centre with a huge lorry bomb six months ago. Several blackened, gutted and windowless towerblocks stand in testimony to the continuing power of the Tigers to wreck the economy and spread terror.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga warned last night that subsidies on essentials would have to be scrapped to pay for the war and hinted at the introduction of conscription. "We will have to call on a lot of young people

to fight for their country," she said.

This is a disastrous time for Sri Lanka. It became clear yesterday that the Tigers had overrun the strategic Mullaitivu army garrison on the northeast coast, killing 1,200 personnel — the armed forces' greatest loss in the 13-year civil war. Indeed, it is the biggest single loss in any battle in South Asia since the region gained independence half a century ago.

Troops broke through the Tigers' lines yesterday and re-entered the base, but found only bodies. The garrison had been looted of its substantial arsenal and the Tigers scored such a decisive victory they were able to bring in tractors to carry away their own dead in cars.

They took away armoured vehicles, artillery pieces, hundreds of rifles and thousands of rounds of ammunition. They are also believed to have taken a long-range Russian-built Antonov field gun.



Sri Lankan soldiers drafted in as emergency workers carry the injured from the scene of last night's train bombing outside Colombo

The Tigers are so far admitting to more than 200 dead — one of their greatest single losses of the war. Most of those will be from the Jaffna peninsula in the north, the Tamil heartland, which has been under army control since

early this year. The deaths will be "celebrated" by the Tigers in elaborate ceremonies according to tradition, sowing the mood against government forces in Jaffna, where there were signs that a hard-and-fast campaign to win over

local civilians had been succeeding. Opposition leaders yesterday denounced the Government for failing to defend the nation, despite vastly increased defence expenditure.

Mullaitivu was not as big as

other garrisons in the north, such as Poonaryn and Elephant Pass, making it a more attractive target.

July is often a violent month in Sri Lanka, when the Tigers foment strife to commemorate anti-Tamil riots in Colombo

on July 23, 1983, which precipitated the start of the war on a large scale. The security forces have been placed on alert for more attacks, particularly in Colombo.

Letters, page 17

Tokyo alert over food poisoning

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

AS a food poisoning epidemic spread across Japan, Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister, yesterday declared a national emergency and pledged no effort would be spared to combat the outbreak.

In a statement on the epidemic, which has struck 8,230 people and killed seven people, Mr Hashimoto said the infection caused by intestinal bacteria was no longer confined to one region but threatened the health of everyone in the country.

"The food poisoning by the O157 colon bacillus bacteria which started in May has now spread to the entire nation," the Prime Minister said. "I recognise that the O157 food poisoning is a problem deeply related to the daily lives of the people and that it is now a national issue."

Mr Hashimoto pledged urgent action a day after a girl, aged ten, died in the town of Sakai, where more than 6,400 primary schoolchildren have been stricken in the past fortnight. By last night the number of seriously ill children with symptoms of haemolytic uraemic syndrome, a kidney-damaging disease arising from the food poisoning, rose to 96, up 22 from the previous day. Sakai city officials said. In addition, three infants and three adults were said to be in serious condition.

The epidemic has claimed two other lives this week — an 85-year-old man in Osaka and a 56-year-old man in Kyoto. These were the first deaths reported since four people died in the western city of Okayama last month.

Mr Hashimoto vowed that every step would be taken to

trace the route of the infection. Scientists are analysing hundreds of samples of lunches served in Sakai schools in the middle of last month to try to identify the source. Main suspects are cold noodles, raw cow's liver and undercooked hamburger.

The Prime Minister, who is to announce a detailed plan to tighten food inspection procedures tomorrow, urged the public to get medical treatment at the first sign of the unusual symptoms.

Japan has accepted an offer of help from the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention to fight the epidemic. The Atlanta-based institution helped to eradicate an O157 outbreak in 1993 which killed four children in the American Midwest. In past emergencies, including last year's Kobe earthquake, Japanese officials had shown itself reluctant to accept help from overseas.

Deadly strain of bug

THE bacterium causing alarm in Japan is a dangerous strain of *Escherichia coli*, a normal inhabitant of the human gut (Jeremy Lawrence writes). Until 15 years ago, *E. coli* caused the occasional upset stomach, but in 1982 it became clear that a strain of the bacterium called O157:H7 had acquired a gene that enabled it to produce a powerful toxin, known as verotoxin.

The newly armed *E. coli* has caused outbreaks in America, Europe and South Africa but the epidemic in Japan is the worst recorded. In Britain there are about 1,000 cases a year. The bacterium causes bleeding and diarrhoea, and is especially dangerous in children. Its most serious consequence is haemolytic uraemic syndrome, a form of kidney failure.

Man saved from shark by dolphins

Cairo: Three bottlenose dolphins saved Martin Richardson, a British tourist, from a shark in the Red Sea.

Mr Richardson, 29, from Colchester, was swimming with the dolphins off the Sinai peninsula on Tuesday when friends on board a diving boat heard him scream as a shark bit his side and arm. The dolphins encircled him, flapping their tails to scare off the shark.

A statement by Israel's Rezanat Centre for Maritime Studies at the University of Haifa, which monitors marine life in the area, said: "This defensive behaviour of dolphins is common when mothers are protecting their calves from predators."

Mr Richardson is recovering in an Egyptian military hospital. (AP)

'Fiery Horse' women struggle to make stable relationships

BY ROBERT WHYMANT

MARIKO's thirtieth birthday has reminded her, painfully, how tough it is for women born in 1966, the Year of the Fiery Horse, to find a man ready to risk marriage to someone associated with the unluckiest year of the Japanese zodiac.

"It's definitely a drawback when I meet the family of someone I like," said Mariko, who is still single and did not want her full name to be published. "There are people who really believe I will bring calamity if I marry their son."

Under the ancient Chinese calendar, used for fortune telling, the horse combines with fire once in 60 years, supposedly resulting in fires and other disasters. According to traditional belief, women born in this year had a "wild

disposition and ate their husbands", Kodansha's *Japan Encyclopedia* records.

Still vivid in folk memory is a 1683 incident in which a young woman born in the Year of the Fiery Horse was executed for arson. Even in high-tech modern-day Japan, such superstitions continue to flourish.

The nation's birth statistics for 1965 to 1967 tell a bizarre story. In 1966, the most recent occurrence of the *hinomuma*, Year of the Fiery Horse, many couples obviously took care to avoid having children. The birth rate fell to 1.36 million from 1.82 million in the previous year, and jumped to 1.93 million in 1967. The Health and Welfare Ministry presumes that some parents waited to register daughters until 1966 was safely over.

But that still left Mariko and

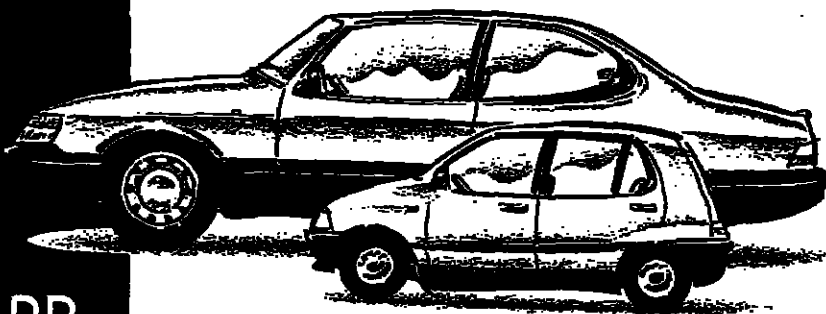
655,510 other females at a disadvantage. This year the stable of fiery horses turns 30, an age when women not yet married are pejoratively called *urinomori* (merchandise still on the shelf). And though women are increasingly delaying marriage to pursue careers, it is patently obvious that Mariko and others like her are having more trouble finding partners than women aged either 29 or 31.

"My first steady boy friend took me home to meet his father," said Mariko. "When his father found out my age, and worked out my year of birth, he told the son he must stop seeing me."

After that, she decided not to disclose her real age until certain that a potential spouse is unlikely to bolt. But she is still waiting for her personal Mr Right.

SENSIBLE LOANS

from
13.8% APR



DON'T LET HIGH INTEREST RATES CRAMP YOUR STYLE
DO TALK TO COLONIAL DIRECT
About a manageable way to repay your current loans

- APRs from as low as 13.8%*
- £1,000 - £15,000
- Arranged over the phone
- No security required
- Guaranteed interest rate - repayments will not increase during the loan period
- Payment protection cover can be built in

	A Loan of £5000	
	48 Monthly repayments with Payment Protection	60 Monthly repayments without Payment Protection
Colonial Direct	13.8% £162.80	£134.34
Royal Bank of Scotland	16.7% £163.17	£140.56
Next	18.99% £169.34	£145.61
Mercantile Credit	19.8% £174.33	£147.63
HFC Bank	23.00% £193.24	£155.00

Rates correct as of 14.6.96 and based on the lender's published rates.

Typical example: If you wish to borrow £5000 from Colonial Direct over 48 months, the monthly payment will be £162.80 inclusive of £26.46 credit protection insurance. Total repayment over loan term £7,814.40. The APR of 13.8% applies to the loan repayment.

Colonial
DIRECT

Now we're talking Loans

0800 828 300

LINES ARE OPEN MON - FRI 8am - 8pm, SAT 9am - 2pm

(*Loans of £5,000 or more)

Quote ref 634/23

Colonial Direct is a trading name of Colonial Mutual Group (UK Holdings) Limited. All loans are subject to status and are not available to minors. Loans are provided by Colonial Finance (UK) Limited which reserves the right to decline any application. The rate table is for guidance purposes only. A written quotation is available on request from Colonial Direct, Claydon Lane, LEEDS, LS2 8SL. Credit protection insurance is underwritten by ITT London & Edinburgh.

Many workers feel trapped and frustrated because they are stuck in a vicious circle. They can't get a top job unless they have the best qualifications. They want to improve their job prospects but can't afford to — it's money not motivation that bars the way. What is more employers want qualified people.

Career Development Loans (CDLs) try to solve this dilemma by allowing you to get trained without having to pay until you've finished your course. CDLs were launched in 1988 and 78,800 have now been approved. It is expected that record number of applications for loans will be taken out this year.

The CDL scheme is operated by the Co-operative, Clydesdale and the Bank of Scotland. Once your CDL is approved, then you do not have to pay anything back until one month after your studies end. A loan can be between £200 and £8,000 and will pay up to 80% of your course fees. Repayments are fixed even if interest rates go up. During the study period, which can last up to two years the Government will pay the interest on the loan. After this period you have up to five years to repay it.

You don't have to be unemployed to qualify for a Career Development Loan. As long as you are over 18, you can apply for a loan to finance yourself through a wide range of vocational courses whether they be full-time, part-time or distance learning.

Mr Farrow feels he has benefited from a CDL. He used to be a psychiatric ward manager but felt frustrated, "I seemed to be pushing against a glass ceiling, probably a feeling shared by many people in large organisations". At 26 he took out an £800 Career Development Loan. He successfully completed the 2 year part-time course and secured a place on the NHS general management training programme. He now works at a NHS hospital trust as an assistant hospital manager and is just about to turn his diploma into a BSC degree. He plans to start an MSc in hospital management later this year.

He now pays back £40 a month and says: "There was no way I could afford to pay myself so the loan has proved a worthwhile investment which has opened up new opportunities."

A pilot scheme was launched by the Department for Education and Employment in the South West of Britain and South Wales to give CDLs wider appeal. This allows a longer repayment holiday of up to 18 months after your course has finished. If you have been out of work for 3 months you may be able to borrow 100% of your course fees. The course is full time you may be eligible to get a loan to cover your living expenses. Many workers feel trapped and frustrated because they are stuck in a vicious circle. They can't get a top job unless they have the best qualifications. They want to improve their job prospects but can't afford to — it's money not motivation that bars the way. What is more employers want qualified people.

Career Development Loans (CDLs) try to solve this dilemma by allowing you to get trained without having to pay until you've finished your course. CDLs were launched in 1988 and 78,800 have now been approved. It is expected that record number of applications for loans will be taken out this year. The CDL scheme is operated by Barclays, The Co-operative, Clydesdale and The Royal Bank of Scotland. Once your CDL is agreed then you do not have to pay any of your loan

back until one month after your studies end. A loan can be between £200 and £8,000 and will pay up to 80% of your course fees. Repayments are fixed even if interest rates go up. During the study period, which can last up to two years the Government will pay the interest on the loan. After this period you have up to five years to repay it.

WITH A CAREER DEVELOPMENT LOAN THERE ARE NO REPAYMENTS UNTIL YOU FINISH YOUR TRAINING. SO NOW THERE'S NOTHING TO HOLD YOU BACK.

Career Development Loan. He successfully completed the 2 year part-time course and secured a place on the NHS general management training programme. He now works at a NHS hospital trust as an assistant hospital manager and is just about to turn his diploma into a BSC degree. He plans to start an MSc in hospital management later this year.

He now pays back £40 a month and says: "There was no way I could afford to pay the fees myself so the loan has proved a worthwhile investment."

A pilot scheme was launched by the Department for Education and Employment in the South West of Britain and South Wales to give CDLs wider appeal. This allows a longer repayment holiday of up to 18 months after your course has finished. If you have been out of work for 3 months you may be able to borrow 100% of your course fees. If the course is full time you may be eligible to get a loan to cover your living expenses. Many workers feel trapped and frustrated.

With a Government-endorsed Career Development Loan you can borrow up to £8,000, for a course that lasts up to two years (or from September, three years courses that include work experience) and you don't pay anything back until you've finished your training. For an information pack please call 0800 505 505, or send the coupon to Career Development Loans, Prospect, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE3 1RL.

D/E/E
Department for
Education and Employment

Name (Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms)

Address

Postcode

Telephone

FREE YOUR POTENTIAL WITH A CAREER DEVELOPMENT LOAN.



For the occupants of this unremarkable house, the freak storm had odd consequences

The house that was struck by lightning

July 6, 2.32pm. Jane Taylor is sitting on the top deck of a number 141 bus, having left home a few minutes before to visit a friend. She is a journalist, deputy editor of the *New Statesman*.

It is a sultry Saturday afternoon in Stoke Newington, north London. No sunshine but at the same time little prospect of rain. The kids on the street corners press cold Coke cans to their temples, the pensioners sit on folding chairs outside their front doors. The city sweats gently into its summer clothes, and curses the humidity.

Ellen Reynolds, a 41-year-old local government worker who lives in the flat above Ms Taylor, remembers that she had popped out to buy groceries and was only 200 yards from home.

Civil servant James Airey, 30, who had recently moved into the maisonette at the top of the house, was shopping in Islington and looking forward to a combined housewarming and birthday party that evening.

And, quite untroubled, a cool west-by-northwesterly airstream that had made its way across the North Atlantic from Greenland via Iceland was arriving in the upper atmosphere above them. Made up of harmless rainclouds, it would need to encounter ground temperatures of 18 or 19C to push it up to 30,000 feet, condense more water and turn it into a thunderstorm.

London that day was the hottest place in Britain. And just before 2.30pm, with the cold stream above Stoke Newington, the temperature peaked at 19C.

"There was a very bright flash in the sky, then a terrific blast of thunder immediately overhead," recalls Jane Taylor. "It was so loud, it sent people running in all directions. Then there was a tiny shower of rain. I knew the 'storm' had been directly above us but it didn't occur to me that the lightning had struck my street."

"At first I thought it was an IRA bomb, it was so loud," says James Airey. "I have seen weather conditions like this



As freak storms strike throughout Britain Giles Coren, talks to three flat-dwellers about the day lightning struck their house, and finds out why they feel their lives will never be quite the same again

before in Florida — dark skies with intermittent rainbursts, then torrential rainbursts — but never in London."

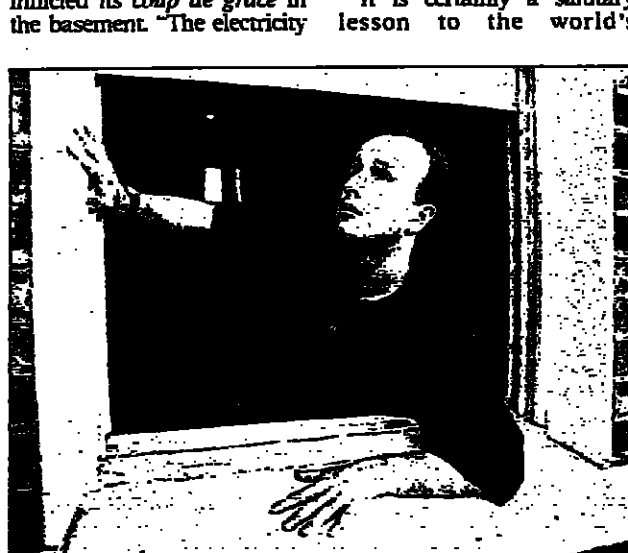
Ellen Reynolds thought the same. "There was no sound before or after," she says, "just that single blast. The lightning and thunder were simultaneous. I nearly jumped out of my skin, and while it never occurred to me that it might have hit my flat, I knew it was near. People were fleeing from the bus shelter and when I ducked into a shop, everyone was very pale and the man behind the counter was giving them glasses of water."

For most people caught out by the freak downpour, the drama was over. But for James, Jane and Ellen, things were to take a spooky turn.

The house itself was not destroyed. It stands proud in this very morning, part of a late 19th-century terrace, with ornamental figures perched on a balustrade keeping impatient watch over the street. It was inside that havoc was wreaked. And in such a selective, sinister, apparently premeditated way, that the inhabitants may never be the same again.

First home that afternoon was Mr Airey. "As soon as I got in, I went to check the answerphone," he says. "That was when I noticed there was no power on the phone. Then I went to switch on the television — it was ladies' final day at Wimbledon — but it wasn't working and the lights were off on the video."

"I didn't know what to think. It was like *The X-Files*. Then I made the connection with the storm..."



"I didn't know what to think. It was like *The X-Files*. Then I made the connection with the storm..."

was conducted down the telephone line and straight into my computer via the internal fax modem," says Ms Taylor. "The electrical connections were all fine, it just blew up the mother board on which the whole system depends. It may have wiped out all my spreadsheets and accounts. I am waiting to find out."

No problem with Ms Taylor's phone line, though, nor with her television. Similarly Mr Airey's Apple Mac computer, in the same room as the devastated television and video, was unharmed. The aerial socket for Ms Taylor's television was blown out of the wall, but once that was repaired the equipment worked fine.

"According to the electrical people, we were all very lucky to have been out," she says. "Apparently the whole house could have gone up in smoke."

So the film buff lost his home cinema system, the writer her computer, and what of Ellen Reynolds?

"I was unaffected," she says, "apart from my answerphone blowing a fuse and the hi-fi remote control going dead. The hi-fi itself was un-

electroboffins to learn which side divine providence comes down on.

And as if the lightning damage were not enough, for both James and Jane it brought with it a week of disasters.

"To begin with it was just problems at work," says civil servant James. "Then I discovered that my washing machine was leaking into the flat below. Worst of all, a couple of days after the strike, I went to Sainsbury's to get a whole month's groceries. I reckoned to get a trolley full of frozen stuff and load it into a cab."

"Just as I got to the front of the taxi rank with my trolley load, dozens of policemen swarmed into the area and cordoned it off, saying there was a bomb scare. I had to walk three miles in boiling hot sun with a trolleyful of food which was defrosted and useless by the time I got home. It was the worst week of my life."

For Jane Taylor, the lightning strike came at the end of an "appalling week" which included a car crash that left her with whiplash.

And embarrassment was to be heaped upon disaster the following day: "I was at a party," she says, "and declaring very dramatically that I had just been struck by lightning. 'Not personally, of course, but my house,' I said jokingly. A woman who was listening then said that she had been struck recently, too. Personally. That she had been paralysed and in hospital for three days, that the electricity had been conducted through her body and into a friend, and who had been killed. Suddenly my story wasn't so funny."

And Ellen Reynolds? "My life actually took a turn for the better after the lightning," she beams. "It had been a very anxious time, my flat had been on the market for some time. My brother even suggested advertising it as 'the house that will never be struck by lightning again'. Then suddenly a buyer came through."

James has insured everything now, although his outlook has been forever bleakened. "Every time I leave home, I look up and see a dark cloud moving towards the house," he says. "Occasionally I wake up in the middle of the night and unplug the television aerial."

And Ms Taylor is still spooked by the odd detail: "Why did three sockets and the main plug on the multi-point extension lead for my stereo survive, while one of them blew? And why did James's four speakers survive, though the cinema system was blown?" She also admits to going round at night unplugging all her appliances — and both she and James confess to a neurosis: a trembling apprehension that it really might happen again.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

How does the last verse go?

I don't know, you wrote it!

On the Hyde Park stage with rock legends, photographed for The Sunday Times Magazine by Terry O'Neill

THE SUNDAY TIMES / IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

WHAT HAPPENED: AN EXPERT'S VIEW

WHILE it would take a theologian to make sense of the lightning bolt's demonic sense of humour, a man who can explain the randomness of the damage is Dr Clive Saunders, whose atmospheric electricity research group at Manchester University studies the physics of thunderstorm electrification.

"If the lightning had actually struck the television aerial or the phone line," says Dr Saunders, "then they would have been vaporised. Effects such as these can be caused by a strike outside the house, but as damage was worst at the top, then it seems likely that

the strike was on the roof." But a direct hit on an aerial is not necessary to wreak havoc. "The damage was done by the radiative effects. The high current creates electromagnetic activity in conductors nearby. The television socket blown out on the ground floor was due to electrons being driven along the cable. The damage was less than on the second floor because it was more sheltered by the house. The downstairs computer was damaged because it was connected to the telephone, the computer upstairs was not."

"ELECTRONIC equipment is very vulnerable to high currents, and domestic cables are not used to carrying them, so the answerphone can be broken, without necessarily killing the phone line. As for the one socket on the extension that blew a fuse, currents can actually jump from one thing to another through the air. This would also account for the broken remote control."

"All you can do to protect yourself is to unplug everything in the house when you know there is a storm coming. It is impossible to predict precisely what will happen. There is just no accounting for nature."



"The nationally recognised mark of clarity, displayed with pride on over 1,500 business, legal and government documents. First use normally free of charge. Brochure/application: tel 01865 739177 (24-hr) or fax 735195"

We conduct patient research into



Will you support us?

The Royal College of Physicians sets the standards and controls the quality of medical practice in hospitals throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Research plays a vital part in this work. Not laboratory research — but research that evaluates the most effective ways of caring for patients.

- ☐ Such as how to maximize the quality of life for those sick with cancer.
- ☐ Or how best to provide sensitive long term care for the elderly.
- ☐ Or what guidelines should be laid down for the best management of asthma.

Funding this never ending programme is a real problem. We rely on the donations, gifts and legacies of generous supporters to augment our independent income. Only in this way can we continue to seek out new and better methods of caring for patients in hospital.

Will you help us to improve the care of patients by making a contribution to one of our research projects? We will gladly send you details.

Write to the Appeal Director or Telephone 0171 935 1174.

Help Medicine's Appeal Fund
ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS
11 St Andrews Place, London NW1 4LE.
Registered Charity No 212058

Do you need a Solicitor?
PROPERTY • FAMILY • INHERITANCE • EMPLOYMENT • LONG TERM CARE • PROBATE • NEW DIVORCE LAW • EFFECTIVE

Direct

CALL FREE

0800 072

John Major on Europe, the economy and why Britain is the best country in the world to live in

'We have an absolute right to say no to a single currency'

by Bruce Anderson

The weather over Downing Street on Tuesday evening was rather like the political climate: close and humid, with heavy rain and cracks of thunder. But the atmosphere in the Cabinet Room was surprisingly light, considering that the Prime Minister had had a difficult day in the House, in the aftermath of the ministerial resignation.

That was where we started the interview. Surely David Heathcoat-Amory was right: the Government's position on the single currency was a compromise, on an issue too important for compromises. Mr Major gave a robust reply. "No, it is not a compromise. It is a decision. I say that this is the most important single decision that Europe and this country will take for many years. Whether we go in or whether we stay out, it is going to affect this country, and since it is going to affect this country, I want to be in there up until the last moment negotiating precisely what happens."

"How could I defend my position to the City, to industry — to the British people — if I said that on the most important economic issue for 50 years or more, I was going to withdraw from the debate now, and let the Europeans take the decisions on their own, with no British input, even though we would be vitally affected. For us to opt out of the debate now would be a dereliction of responsibility."

"We do have an absolute right to say no to a single currency, and if it isn't in our national interest to join, we will say no: no one should be in any doubt about that. But if I said now, 'You Europeans get on with it, enjoy yourselves, make up your minds what is right, while we British sit on the sidelines watching', that would not be credible."

I inquired whether he would be taking the same position if he had a different Chancellor. "I would be taking exactly that position. That is the position I took at Maastricht, when I did have a very different Chancellor. That is the position I set out at the last election: I have taken it consistently and it has not changed."

I complimented him on the effectiveness of his forward defensive stroke, and there was a quick smile. "It is the timing, you know. W.G. Grace used to time his forward defensive strokes so well that the ball went to the boundary." Reverting to the non-cricketing members of the

European Union, I asked Mr Major whether it was possible for an enlarged Europe to march in step. "It is impossible. For a European union of the size there is going to be to march together. Just as you can't regiment people, you can't regiment countries. If Malta and Cyprus join, they aren't going to be able to respond in the same way as Britain, France, and Germany. You only have to state the contrary proposition to see how ludicrous it is."

"Europe" began as a regimented central core. But every time it has got bigger, new strains have appeared — hence the need for flexibility. I am absolutely, categorically certain that the EU will have to become a good deal more flexible in the years ahead."

I wondered whether European political leaders would agree? "Politicians may dream dreams, but the real world gets in the way, and the real world demands flexibility."

It was time to switch to

good shape. I'll leave my critics to point out my mistakes: they'll enjoy doing that."

Leaving your critics on one side, I continued, what general themes will you be offering the voters at the election? "I will tell you what I would most like to achieve in this country. I happen to think that this is the best country in the world in which to live. I have seen a lot of the world, and this is the country I would most like to live in. I love this country. And I think it is becoming a great success. That is evident to the world at large, but not to much of fashionable opinion in this country. That is what I would like to change."

"I know that Britain likes winning. When it becomes clear to people that Britain is winning, winning in the economic-growth league and winning in other ways as well, I believe that you will see the change of opinion, which is already happening, accelerate quite dramatically."

"Britain is a success story, and that's not just a matter of how much money we can put in people's wallets. If we are going to win, we need to win hearts as well as heads. One way to do this is education. We must make sure that this country has the best education system we can credibly have for the money that is available."

Wasn't his enthusiasm for education something of a paradox: his own school days were unhappy and unsuccessful? "I didn't have any education, which is probably why I feel so strongly about it. It was my fault, mind you, nobody else's. But I do think it is important that we develop the right education policy, and I make no secret of the fact that I favour selection, though not the return of the 11-plus."

"I am speaking of a straightforward matter of common sense, which is where most of the best policy comes from. If you look at children around this country, there is an infinite variety and they are all individuals. They have different talents and needs; they seek different opportunities. So should we ram the originality and diversity of our children into a regimented education system? Of course not. We should have an education system which is as diverse and original as the children for whom it caters. Diversity and standards are the core."

I suggested to him that he was really advocating the extension of Thatcherism; Thatcherism for all. The Prime Minister assumed that I was referring to economic policy. "I invite people to look at the number of areas where we have built on Mrs Thatcher's policies. She trail-blazed with the early privatisations, and very sensibly did many of the easier ones first to establish the principle. I agree with the principle. I believe in private ownership; I don't think the Government should own things. That is why we have privatised British Coal, British Rail, and British Energy; difficult privatisations."

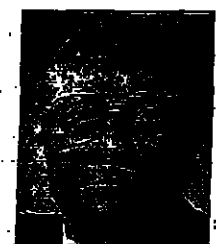
"I strongly agreed with what Mrs Thatcher did, and we have carried Thatcherism, if you like, a great deal further in terms of private ownership, standards in schools and counter-inflation. I feel just as strongly about all those as she did."

And opportunity? "I believe in ladders. Ladders of opportunity — whether you are a slum child trying to build a better life for yourself in business or commerce, whether you are someone who wants training; whether you are someone who has never man-



"I don't think that any prime minister has taken to the nation a better set of economic circumstances upon which to build future prosperity"

NEIL KINNOCK



'A man of oratory and emotion. I had a much greater respect for him than most of the media'

JOHN SMITH



'He and I used to disappear after meetings to have a large whisky and discuss our respective troubles'

TONY BLAIR



'I know him less well than the others, but our private relations are fine'

aged to see first-class art but would like to do so."

"My job is not to say to people: 'Here you are, here is what you want, on a plate'. My job is to provide the ladders and then say — work out your goal and aim for it. That is what I mean by the classless society: opportunity for everyone. I don't resent privilege; I have no resentment whatsoever of privilege. My focus is the other way round — the people who don't have privilege and think that because they are a family with a very low income from an unfashionable job, their child may not have the spark of genius to move into something special. History tells us this is nonsense, yet people often believe that they shouldn't do things because of where they come from and who they are. I

If it isn't broke, don't fix it. I think the House of Lords is a very effective revising chamber. I don't say that it is perfect in every respect, but basically I think that it is a remarkably British institution with a remarkable history, which has the great virtue of doing what it is there to do. So I wouldn't fiddle around very much at all with the House of Lords."

You have known three Labour leaders. I said — but he interrupted. "Is it not four? Margaret Beckett was leader of the Labour Party for a couple of months. So this is my fourth Labour leader. I wonder what the fifth will be like."

I asked him what he made of the first three or four: what were their strengths and weaknesses? "They were all very different. Neil Kinnock was a man of oratory and emotion. I had a much greater respect for him than most of the media did. When I dealt with him in private, I always found him absolutely straightforward. He is very Welsh, but he is also very much a Britisher. He had different political opinions from me, but I never detected any difficulty or reluctance in dealing with him."

"John Smith and I used to disappear sometimes after meetings to have a large whisky and discuss our respective troubles. We sometimes wondered whether we should 'swap the odd back-bencher or two.' Do you two Bloggses for... he was obviously searching for a name borne by no current Conservative MP. "For whatever," Tony Blair I know less well than the others, but our private relations are fine."

He had once told me that he could never see John Smith as Prime Minister. "So what about Tony Blair?" "I don't think he will be Prime Minister either. He and his party are very nervous. They have been sitting on their opinion poll lead for a long time, but they are very nervous. Watch the way they panic when anything goes wrong. They panic in spasms, and between now and

the next election quite a lot is going to go wrong for them."

It was time to conclude. I pointed out to the Prime Minister that a couple of people who had recently interviewed him for the first time both said the same thing: that

the private man bore no relation to the grey image, and that if he could meet everyone in the country, about 96 per cent of them would vote for him. So what causes the discrepancy between the man and the image?

He chuckled as he rose from his chair to submit himself to the attentions of the photographer. He went on chuckling as he said his final words over his shoulder: "Perhaps the other 4 per cent work in the media industry."

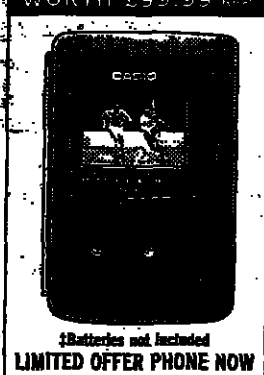
Buy the mobile phone. Get the pocket TV free.

PHILIPS

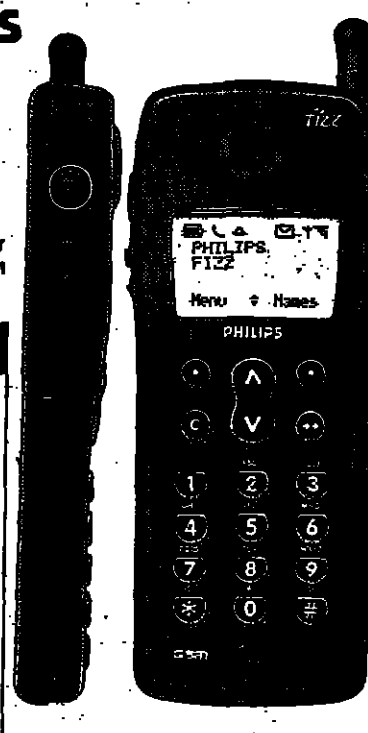
NEW GSM MODEL FZZ.

- ◆ Up to 75 mins talk-time
- ◆ Up to 45 hrs standby-time
- ◆ 45 name/number memory
- ◆ Rapid recharge
- ◆ Complete package with standard battery and charger
- ◆ Dimensions 162x60x17mm
- ◆ Weight 210g

FREE COLOUR TV WORTH £99.99



LIMITED OFFER PHONE NOW



LIMITED OFFER

£4.99 INC. VAT

The complete listening and viewing package from Cellphones Direct! Order the outstanding Philips FZZ digital mobile phone today, and once you've had it connected, we'll send you this superb Casio 2.2 inch screen portable TV worth £99.99 (ours) entirely free of charge.

Simply call us with your credit card details to receive your phone within 4 working days.

VODAFONE PERSONAL WORLD	
Connection	£35.25 (£30 + VAT)
Monthly Rental	£17.50 (£15 + VAT)
First Hour Call	35.25p per min (£30 + VAT)
2nd Hour Call	11.75p per min (£10 + VAT)

Guaranteed peace of mind. Your phone is covered by our 14 days no quibble money back promise.

Cellphones direct

ORDER NOW WITH YOUR CREDIT CARD DETAILS FOR FREE DELIVERY IN 4 WORKING DAYS

FREEPHONE 0500 000 888

CREDIT CARD ORDERING HOTLINE WEEKDAYS 9AM TO 5PM WEEKENDS 9AM TO 5PM

PLEASE HAVE YOUR CREDIT CARD AND THIS ADVERTISEMENT HANDY WHEN YOU CALL AND QUOTE REF 4571. COUNTRY WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT SWITZERLAND. Offer subject to stock, a standard advice contract for each phone with Cellphones Direct Ltd, 105 Lower Richmond Road, Richmond-upon-Thames TW9 4LH, and the phone net. Offer extends to the 14 day money back guarantee. Full terms and conditions apply. © 1996 Cellphones Direct Ltd.

Do you need a **Solicitor?**
ACCIDENT • INJURY
PROPERTY • FAMILY • BUSINESS
TRUSTS • INHERITANCE • EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS
LONG TERM CARE • PROBATE • COMPANY LAW
NEW DIVORCE LAW - EFFECTIVE AFTER JULY 1st

To arrange a confidential discussion at a time to suit you with an approved solicitor in your area call Direct Law. Direct Law Solicitors provide personal attention and a free initial consultation.

Direct Law
CALL FREE ANYTIME
0800 072 0398
 Not yet available in Scotland or Northern Ireland

The politics of the attainable

David Trimble, Ulster Unionist leader, sets out his manifesto

The peace process in Northern Ireland assumed that paramilitary groups recognised the futility of violence and wanted to enter the political forum. The Downing Street Declaration set out a route for this, and we in the Ulster Unionist Party underwrote its principles.

Sinn Féin clearly hoped to obtain significant constitutional concessions in response to the ceasefire. One or more of the Governments involved may have so promised: indeed the framework documents can be read as confirming such promises. But I think Sinn Féin realised that they would have to make a genuine commitment to peace, evidenced by decommissioning, and that while governments may make promises, their delivery in a democracy is subject to the people's consent.

The result was the resumption of violence by Sinn Féin/IRA. The Docklands bomb on February 9 effectively ended the peace process. Unfortunately, the British Government shied away from that conclusion, and redoubled efforts to entice Sinn Féin into the peace process. Yet further bombs, in Britain, Germany and Ulster, the discovery of bomb and mortar factories in the Irish Republic, and the murder of an Irish policeman have driven home that conclusion.

The recent disturbances in Northern Ireland were caused by an IRA threat of violence, which the RUC first capitulated to and then overrode. The public saw the initial surrender as another example of the retreats and concessions of the past two years, and the response by the Ulster British people showed how deeply the Government had overdrawn on their reserves of confidence and forbearance. Then the response from nationalists to the second police decision showed how far the Hume-Adams pact and the unrealistic expectations aroused by the peace process have undermined the SDLP.

Yet the political process can be rebuilt. It will not produce a solution satisfactory to the extremes — but that was never really possible. The talks should be refocused on the constitutional parties and on what is achievable. More can be achieved than is generally recognised in England.

We in the Ulster Unionist Party have developed proposals for a regional assembly in which all could share on an equal basis. The key is the principle of proportionality. Elections to the assembly should be by proportional representation, and the assembly should discharge its functions proportionally. It would work through committees formed in proportion to party strengths, with the offices of chairman and deputy chairman also shared proportionately between the parties.

Such an assembly would work best if it were essentially administrative. It would probably not work if it had to cope with any major policy choices. But nobody in Northern Ireland is suggesting the local equivalent of a "tarran tax". Financial power would re-

main in Westminster, so major policies would be determined there. Full participation in national politics, denied to us by direct rule, would be essential. It is not a choice between integration and devolution: both are necessary.

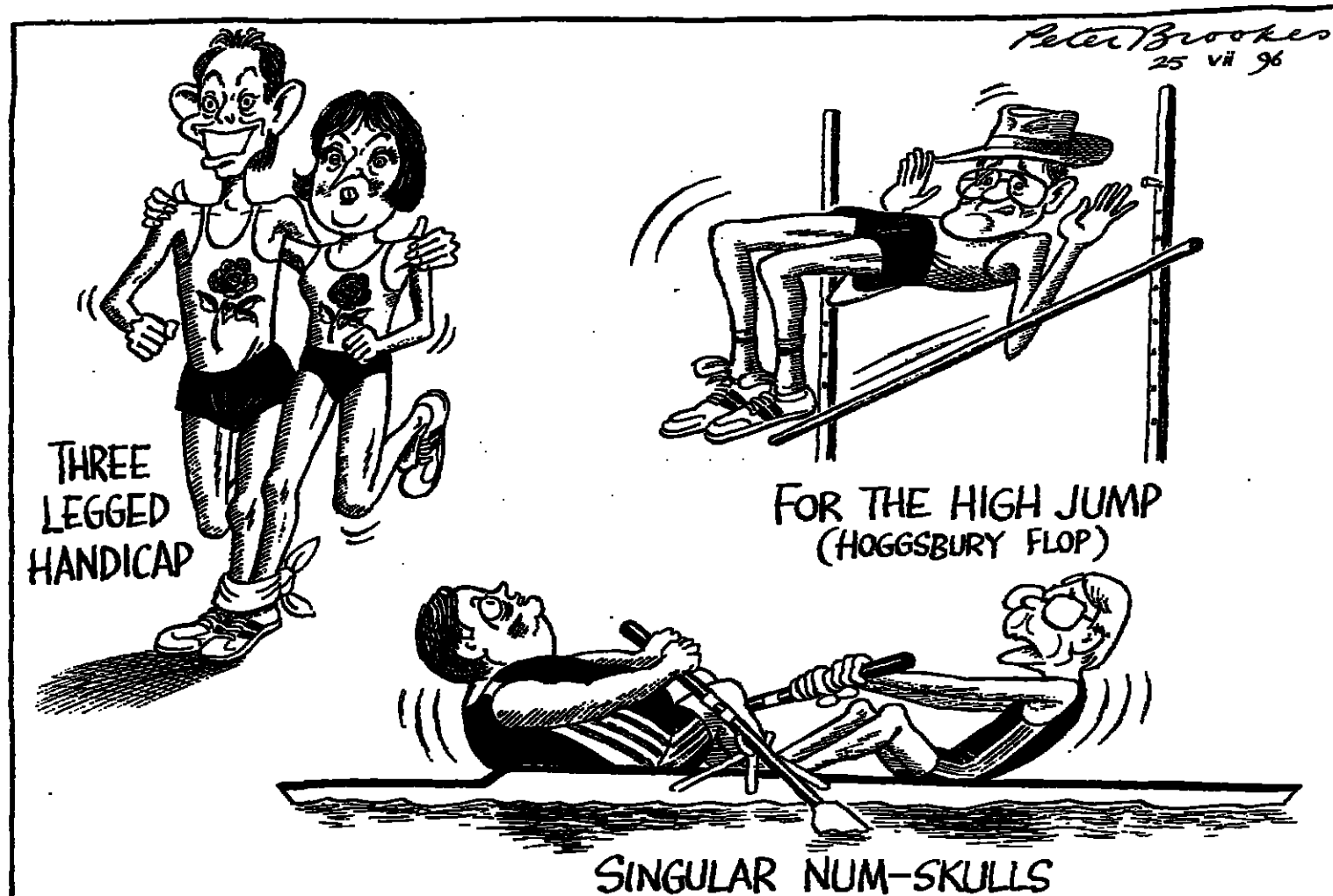
A regional assembly and reform at Westminster are only part of what can be achieved. For many years it has been accepted by all Ulster parties that individual human rights should be protected by the incorporation of the European Convention of Human Rights. Now the debate has moved on to a consideration of the collective rights of religious, cultural and national groups.

Ulster is not unique. There are many cases in Europe of disputes between cultural and national groups, and Europe has developed codes of law and practice to deal with them — not in the supra-national institutions of the EU, but in the Minority Rights Convention of the Council of Europe and the accords and charters of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe. We have urged their application in Ulster. It may then be discovered that compared, for example, to the Hungarian minorities in Slovakia and Romania, the Irish nationalist minority in Ulster is well protected. The chief lesson will probably be for the Republic, which has behaved in a way that would not be tolerated on the European mainland: but there are lessons for Britain as well.

These principles condemn both the irredentist Irish territorial claim and the Anglo-Irish Agreement. The latter permits constant Irish interference in Ulster's internal affairs, without any reciprocal obligations on the Irish Government. It also treats the Ulster people as unequal to their fellow British citizens.

Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic do have a special relationship, but for both parts of the island, the economic, social, cultural and political interactions across the Irish Sea with their larger neighbours are far more important. These realities should be recognised by the creation of a Council of the British Isles, within which interaction and co-operation between North and South would be accommodated. All such co-operation should be voluntary, and must exclude the present exercise by Dublin of governmental authority within our part of the United Kingdom.

We believe that it is possible to build a substantial, if not an all-embracing consensus around these ideas. Indeed we came close to doing so in the 1992 talks. Unfortunately, after 1992 the Government failed to build on that limited consensus. This time, I hope it will do more. All we can do is talk and strive for agreement. This we have done: this we will do. But the only party with the power to make change is the Government. It must be prepared to divest itself of the virtually dictatorial powers it enjoys under direct rule and shares with the Irish Government.



FUTURE ALUMNI OF THE BRITISH ACADEMY OF SPORTING EXCELLENCE

How Eden erred at Suez

Forty years on, Britain's last imperial adventure seems to belong to another world — even to a participant

When events one has seen become history, it gives one a strange feeling, like a goose walking over one's grave. The Suez crisis, which began 40 years ago tomorrow, is now almost as remote as the Boer War. The leading figures, including Anthony Eden, President Nasser, President Eisenhower and John Foster Dulles, are long since dead. Their states of mind are so different from those of the 1950s as to be hard to recapture. Subsequent events have proved many of their expectations to have been false.

I had an insider's view. In 1955, as a young journalist on the *Financial Times*, I was asked by a publisher to write a brief life of the new Prime Minister, Sir Anthony Eden. He agreed to give me some access, a few early letters and a couple of hours reminiscences, sitting together in the summer of 1956, I was chosen to fight a by-election in Chester-le-Street, a safe Labour seat among Durham miners. Nasser made his speech announcing the nationalisation of the Suez Canal in late July. My by-election in September turned out to be the only one fought in the crisis period. The Conservative Party Conference was held at Llandudno early in October, with a big policy speech from the Prime Minister. At the end of October, in secret collusion with Israel, Britain invaded Egypt; in November, under American pressure, we withdrew; in January, Eden resigned, partly on grounds of ill health, and partly because the policy had collapsed. Harold Macmillan became Prime Minister.

Both Eden and Nasser had got it wrong. Eden believed that the British imperial tradition was still strong enough to allow us to play a major part in the politics of the Middle East, that British influence in the oil-producing countries was a national asset which could still be defended and used. The truth was that Britain no longer had the power to carry out this role, which had already passed to the United States. If there were to be Western intervention again, it would be American-led, as in the Gulf War. Nasser saw himself as the hero of Arab nationalism, which he thought

could be based on Egypt. He focused Arab hostility on Israel. He distrusted, and even despised, the traditional Arab rulers. He would have been amazed and even disgusted to learn that 40 years later kings and sheikhs would still be ruling Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Kuwait and the Gulf States, and disappointed to learn that Israel has survived, is at peace with Egypt and is even making peace with the Palestinians. He was hostile to Islamic fundamentalism, and greatly underrated its power.

The last stages of Eden's political career were as personal as well as a public tragedy, though he had a surprisingly happy period of private life in retirement. In deciding that he had to meet the challenge that Nasser had thrown down, he turned from a lifetime of skilful diplomacy to the role of a man of action. He was not temperamentally suited to that role. At the end of my biography I attempted an assessment of his position immediately before Suez. It contains a sentence I now find surprising: "One can go through his career and scarcely find an issue of foreign policy on which he has been proved wrong." I was considerably more critical of his domestic policy.

No doubt my praise of Eden's judgment in foreign affairs went too far. Yet in 1956 it did not strike people as odd. His resignation early in 1938 in protest at Chamberlain's appeasement policy, his wartime role and his part in the development of the post-war institutions, his leadership of the Geneva Conference on South-East Asia in 1954, were all great achievements. Yet now he is remembered largely for Suez.

Why did he do it? There was strong political pressure to take some action, very much like the emotional pressures in the first days after the Argentine invasion of the Falklands. When I went up to Chester-le-Street

in September, I toured the constituency in an old-fashioned loudspeaker van, urging the Durham miners not to "appease Colonel Nasser". They had no more wish to appease Nasser than Eden did, and thought the Labour leader, Hugh Gaitskell, was being rather wet. But of course they voted Labour, as they always did.

Eden was too serious about international policy to do what he thought was wrong because the public wanted it. In many of his speeches, and in all his private conversation, he reverted to the analogy of the rise of Hitler. He saw Nasser as a dictator,

which he was, and considered that aggressive dictatorship could be stopped only by early and firm action. He blamed himself, as a young Foreign Secretary, for having failed to oppose lead possibly to world war, but certainly to crippling economic damage. Until Opec came along, his fears proved unfounded, but only because Nasser failed to create a universal Arab nationalism, not because he would not have done it if he could.

As the crisis developed, there were many stories that Anthony Eden was emotionally unstable, was taking amphetamines, lost his temper in Cabinet, and so on. He did have a hysterical temper, like his father, though I never saw him lose it. At the speech-drafting meetings he was calm, reasonable, decisive, courteous and always in command of himself. He was a difficult man to write speeches for, as he hated striking phrases and would always take them out of any text. He thought they did more harm than good. He was wrong about Suez, wrong about Britain's position, wrong about the Arabs, wrong about the United States. But he made a historic blunder for intelligible reasons. Suez was the dramatic end of the British Empire. Act Five Scene Five, and it has become his epitaph.

William Rees-Mogg

of the 1930s. The Arabs were not a united nation; the Germans were. Eden also retained too much of what one could call the Second World War consciousness. Both the Anglo-American alliance and the idea of vast strategic decisions stood for him where they had in 1945. He recognised that John Foster Dulles, the American Secretary of State, was an opponent, but he did not believe that Eisenhower, his war-time partner like, would turn on him when it came to the point. Perhaps if Eden had delayed until after the American presidential election, Ike would have been more helpful, but perhaps not. Eden did not recognise how far British power had already declined. Britain had been a world power in the Second World War, but was one no longer. The failure of his Suez policy only advertised that unpleasant fact.

The economic arguments, which I had to draft for the conference speech, and for some of the later crisis speeches, were stronger than is now supposed. What Eden feared was that Nasser would get a grip both on the Suez Canal and ultimately on the Arab oilfields. That would allow him to control the oil supply and the oil price, to do what Opec, the Arab oil producers' cartel, was able to do in the 1970s. This, Eden thought, would lead possibly to world war, but certainly to crippling economic damage. Until Opec came along, his fears proved unfounded, but only because Nasser failed to create a universal Arab nationalism, not because he would not have done it if he could.

As the crisis developed, there were many stories that Anthony Eden was emotionally unstable, was taking amphetamines, lost his temper in Cabinet, and so on. He did have a hysterical temper, like his father, though I never saw him lose it. At the speech-drafting meetings he was calm, reasonable, decisive, courteous and always in command of himself. He was a difficult man to write speeches for, as he hated striking phrases and would always take them out of any text. He thought they did more harm than good. He was wrong about Suez, wrong about Britain's position, wrong about the Arabs, wrong about the United States. But he made a historic blunder for intelligible reasons. Suez was the dramatic end of the British Empire. Act Five Scene Five, and it has become his epitaph.

American way

CONTRARY to her wishes, there will be no plumed horses or glassed-in hearse to take Jessica Mitford to her funeral. Instead, this arch-critic of America's venal funeral business, who died on Tuesday, aged 78, will be cremated in private before an all-American memorial service at the Delaney Street Foundation, a drug rehabilitation centre in San Francisco.

Only last month, Mitford was talking about how she wanted a proper Victorian send-off, saying: "Six black horses with white plumes, and I certainly want to be embalmed."

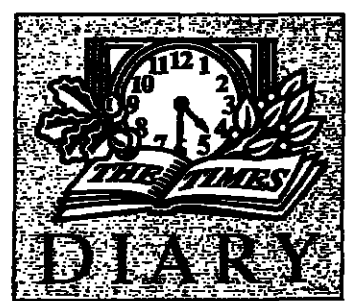
Speaking from Mitford's California home, her son-in-law, Terry Weber, said: "It will be a normal, American service with some of Jessica's favourite hymns. There will be no horses or glassed-in hearse. The funeral cortege will consist only of limousines." The Duchess of Devonshire, Mitford's sister, was unaware of these preparations for the send-off.

our most famous supporter and we are expecting a serious turnout."

After reporting last week that the Prince of Wales's sometime skiing partner Tara Palmer-Tomkinson had confessed the *Life Guards* (army) with lifeguards (beaches), I find it is an easy mistake to make. In an interview with a Japanese magazine, David Naylor-Leyland, owner of Dukes Hotel, St. James's, said he was once in the Queen's Life Guards.



"May I ask you to empty your pockets, Mr. Atherton?"



The Japanese translated this as teaching Her Majesty to swim.

Dragged out

THE LATEST weapon in the Republicans' so far soggy assault on President Clinton is Democratic Reefer Man. Reefer Man is a response to the Democrats' Buttman, a man camouflaged as a six-foot cigarette, who hovered behind Bob Dole at rallies taunting him for his links with the tobacco industry.

The Republicans' answer is a giant walking marijuana joint, who follows President Clinton around, scolding him for his lax approach to drugs.

hand drawer is a folded pair of Lycra cycling shorts with a message: "By God, you'll need them." Bowls, whose shapely frame brings to mind Oliver Hardy, will find them a tight squeeze.

Big man

THERE HAS been a further sighting of the film star, Marlon Brando, whose monumental frame poses the ultimate test for accomplished tailors. Just days after my report of his admiration for the food in Chigwell comes news of his passion for Petersfield grub.

Brando recently strolled into the Old Stable restaurant in the Hampshire town with two lady friends. "He had a huge meal with us in the middle of the afternoon," reports a member of staff. "Where most people would have had one dish, he chose two or three. And then he went straight on to the cream tea menu." He pecked the cheek of the manageress as he departed. She still hasn't washed it. He's awesome.

Togas off

AFTER witnessing the Olympic debacle in Atlanta, Italy's most formidable husband and wife team is campaigning against the next Games being held in Rome. Carlo Ripa Di Meana, leader of the



Olympic protesters Carlo and Marina Ripa Di Meana

Green Party, believes the Olympics would ruin the Eternal City, which is shortlisted for the Games in 2004.

His wife Marina, a 52-year-old marchioness, is threatening to take off her clothes to express solidarity. "She is saying she will strut about naked to make her point," says another Italian blue-blood. "It wouldn't be the first time."

At the French Embassy in Rome, Marina derided in disgust at nuclear-testing in the Pacific. Later, she appeared starkers on billboards across the country in a campaign for the International Animal Welfare fund. Few doubt that we will see her in full splendour again.

The sudden resignation of Jane Atkinson, the public relations adviser to the Princess of Wales, reduces Diana's office to just three secretaries. They will presumably become the highest-paid letter-openers in the business, for the royal divorce settlement sets aside £400,000 per year for the Princess's office expenses.

P.H.S

Labour's comedy of shadows

This election must be the last, says

Gerald Kaufman

Let us raise our glasses to the newly elected Shadow Cabinet (for some of whom I voted). And let us drink a toast, too, to the ardent hope that this is the last Labour Shadow Cabinet ever to be elected.

Within a few months, Tony Blair may well be forming a real Cabinet. I trust that should Labour ever then go back into opposition — in the remote future — it will not go back to electing Shadow Cabinets. Over the past 40 years, ever since Hugh Gaitskell took over the leadership, Labour has pretended to be in government when in opposition by populating its front bench with vast numbers of spokesmen and women presided over by an elected Shadow Cabinet.

The first post-war Shadow Cabinet was a gentlemanly and informal apparatus. Its members, appointed by Winston Churchill, met each week for lunch at the Savoy, and over brandy and cigars were assigned responsibility for the next week's parliamentary business. The idea of permanent portfolios, and teams under them, would not have appealed to Churchill.

As for their being elected, no such nonsense would have occurred to him in the 1940s, and was not considered even when the Tories were last in opposition, in the 1970s. If there had been an elected Shadow Cabinet, Ted Heath would not have been able to speak about the "Tiber foaming with much blood".

Labour, however, has always had a propensity to elect people to things, whether to its National Executive Committee or to its Parliamentary Committee, which is the proper name of the Shadow Cabinet. Since the brotherhood for which the Labour Party is renowned is, more often than one would wish, comparable to that of Cain and Abel, such elections have not always brought out the best in Labour MPs. Allegations of plumpings, of deals, of wrecking candidatures — outrageous and almost unthinkable as such occurrences may seem — have not been unknown.

Moreover, these elections have taken on a life of their own. When I became an MP in 1970, the Shadow Cabinet consisted of 12 elected members, plus the leader, deputy leader and chief whip — these last three also elected by the parliamentary party. The "democratic" reforms of the early 1980s ended Labour MPs' right to elect the leader and deputy, but they struck back by deciding that the deputy chief whip and the pairing whip should also be elected. They elected the Shadow Cabinet first to 15 and then — when obligatory votes for a minimum number of women were imposed — to 18.

When last year Tony Blair got the parliamentary party to do away with the nonsense of electing whips, he made the uncharacteristic mistake of expanding the elected Shadow Cabinet to 19. Under these top dogs are ranged scores of junior spokesmen and women, who have sometimes seemed to outnumber the Tory ministers who are their counterparts.

The democracy of the 1980s shackled the leader to an additional nonsense, namely that if Labour wins an election, all the members of the Shadow Cabinet have to become members of the Cabinet. When the Shadow Cabinet consisted of only 12 members then, even with leader, deputy leader, and representatives from the Labour peers, there was scope for the new prime minister to appoint Cabinet ministers from outside. We have now reached the ridiculous pass where there may not be room in the Cabinet for all members of the Shadow Cabinet, let alone talented others.

The leader still has scope to decide which shadow portfolios to award to his Shadow Cabinet. Hugh Gaitskell once resolved to punish Harold Wilson, whom he thought too successful as Shadow Chancellor, by moving him to the then less prestigious role of Shadow Foreign Secretary. Wilson, asked if he minded, said: "Not at all. I'll need to learn about foreign affairs if I'm to be prime minister."

Tony Blair was said to be anxious, this year, not to have Shadow Cabinet elections. He was, it was rumoured, ready to continue to put up with Mr X and even with Mr Y if he could retain Ms Z. When the Labour Party's obsession with internal democracy turned out to be too much even for him, he deliberately made the elections a farce by discouraging non-Shadow Cabinet frontbenchers from standing.

In advocating the abolition of Shadow Cabinet elections, I cannot be accused of sour grapes. I was elected to the Shadow Cabinet more times (12) than any other currently sitting Labour MP — and if I may be forgiven such conceit (and even if not) — I set the record, by coming top of the poll four times. Nevertheless, it is time this comedy was ended.

Before the democratic reforms imposed in the 1980s by the hard Left, Labour won eight general elections. Since it became ultra-democratic, it has not won once. My reverence for Tony Blair (all right, sycophancy) being inexhaustible, I am confident that this lesson has not been lost on him. It is time Labour MPs turned their attention entirely to winning elections against the Tories, rather than winning elections against each other.



END-OF-TERM REPORT

Both party leaders have their problems; both need a break

Like many political summers, this one has been long, hot and fractious. Labour and Conservative MPs departing for their holidays today leave their parties behind in some disarray, with pockets of mutiny and dangers of splits. The Labour leader is accused by his rebels of being too strong; the Tory leader of being too weak. Yesterday John Major tried to dispel that image in an end-of-term interview with *The Times* by refusing to rule out joining a single currency in the lifetime of the next Parliament.

There is no going back on this now. The Prime Minister asserted that it would be "a dereliction of responsibility" to withdraw from the debate on how the single currency would work. It is a little misleading to suggest that Britain would lose its seat on the important committees were it to forgo membership of the first wave of entrants to the single currency. But the words are cast now; and any sceptic who might have hoped that David Heathcoat-Amory's departure would lead to a subtle rethink over the summer will be disappointed.

Politics virtually shut down now until the party conferences. Each leader claims to be quietly confident, but which has greater cause for cheer? Mr Major has been waiting a painfully long time for the polls to turn his way. Last month's blip in his favour may or may not presage a recovery; whether this was a short burst of patriotic football fever or the beginning of a more sustained improvement will be clearer when our July poll results are published next week.

The "New Labour, New Democrats" campaign was hastily put out before the recess with a somewhat shaky start. It remains to be seen whether voters interpret the message as an admission that Tony Blair has really changed his party or, as the Tories intended, as an effective warning.

The difficulty for Conservative strategists is that, each time they alert potential Labour

voters to a danger, Mr Blair removes it. So, as soon as the Tories claim that Labour will impose an unwanted parliament and "tar-tan tax" on Scotland, Labour promises a referendum first to let the Scots make up their own minds. As fast as the Tories say that Labour will sign Britain up for the single currency, Mr Blair and Robin Cook start making more sceptical noises.

So what remains? The threat of removing voting rights for hereditary peers is hardly enough to send wavering Tories back to safety. Tax and the social chapter still have some power; but Mr Blair is unlikely to go into the next election without a pledge to keep taxes as they are for all but the richest. And the social chapter is already being imposed on Britain by the back door.

But if the Labour leader is difficult for the Tories to nail, he is not immune from problems of his own. He has been sailing choppy waters in the past month or two, and will be relieved that, after last night's Shadow Cabinet poll, his parliamentary party will have no more weapons left to use against him between now and the poll that really matters. With his current lead in public opinion, the election is still Mr Blair's to lose. But he knows as well as anybody that sustained ill-discipline in a party can turn voters away frighteningly fast.

Both leaders will try to use their party conferences as launchpads for the general election campaign, which will run continuously from October until the day itself. Both will pray that the temptation to make trouble will be overcome by the desire to win. But the troublemakers have an eye on events after the election: the Tories are limbering up for a battle for the soul of the party, Labour for a chance to influence what Mr Blair could actually do in government. The two party leaders badly need a rest: there will be a long, cold autumn, winter and spring to come.

AFTER BOUTROS

This time, the UN need not and must not settle for the third-rate

Boutros Boutros Ghali will not now slide unopposed into a second five-year term as United Nations Secretary-General at the end of this year. Fresh blood will take over. America, which ensured this by announcing last month that it would veto him, has done the world a needed service. No international position of this importance should be filled by default, or by lazy adherence to unwritten and inappropriate conventions. Mr Boutros Ghali's decision to fight it out is a folly that will further damage an institution whose reputation has plummeted since he took the helm in 1992. His stubbornness is all the more unbecoming, given that the Americans are doing no more than hold him to his categorical statement, when he first sought the job, that he would serve only one term.

Now America has aimed another blow at rotten UN practices, by announcing that it will investigate any use of the UN secretariat's staff and resources to promote his reelection campaign. The Secretary-General's aides denounced this as "disgraceful disinformation" worthy of the McCarthy era. It is nothing of the kind; and to permit such a response casts yet more doubt on Mr Boutros Ghali's pallid claims to be a reformer.

The US is entirely right to question why Lansana Kouyate, a UN official responsible for Africa, was openly lobbying for Mr Boutros Ghali at this month's summit of the Organisation of African Unity. UN civil servants owe their allegiance to the organisation; they are defending the man, not the institution, when they give press conferences at which UN spokesmen read out old speeches by President Clinton praising the Secretary-General, or suggest — contrary to the rules of the Charter — that the US veto could be overturned by the General Assembly.

One of the strongest reasons for introducing non-renewable single terms for UN chief

executives is the political and administrative corruption, documented in case after case, that has accompanied UN re-election campaigns. Mr Boutros Ghali may have sound reasons for absenting himself from New York for seven weeks, in the longest trip undertaken by any Secretary-General. But it looks like electioneering more than it looks like devotion to UN business. Stones should not be hurled from glass houses.

The challenge now is to turn the American veto to good use. Prominent UN members must stop pretending that all this is nothing to do with them. The veto opens up the race, but that is only half the battle. There are limits to Washington's ability to lobby for suitable candidates. Part of this is America's fault: its failure to pay more than \$1 billion of legally-owed UN contributions opens it to the charge of blackmailing the UN. But even if it were fully paid-up, there would still be an anti-American backlash against a successor favoured by Mr Clinton. Other countries must act. None is doing so, not even Britain.

This is an abnegation of its responsibilities as a permanent member of the Security Council, which under the UN Charter is responsible for choosing a candidate to put forward to a General Assembly vote. Before the UN sinks into its August siesta, Britain should insist that the Security Council formally invite governments to submit nominations, and announce that it will publish the short-list so that the merits of the candidates can be openly compared. Such obvious choices as Mrs Sadako Ogata, the highly-praised UN Commissioner for Refugees, will not come forward unless they are actively persuaded to do so. The alternative is a repeated US veto of Mr Boutros Ghali until some uninspiring compromise candidate is plucked in despair out of the woodwork. It does not bear contemplating.

A SPORTING CHANCE

Broadening the base offers the best hope of success

As Britain struggles to win medals at the Atlanta Olympics, few would begrudge a plan to identify sporting talent and nurture it all the way to the top. So the Government's set of announcements offering a new impetus to sport in Britain deserve their warm reception. The policies outlined by the Prime Minister yesterday, and detailed in *Sport: Raising the Game*, include many overdue initiatives.

Mr Major plans to revive sport in schools, permitting certain specialist colleges to select students on the basis of athletic ability; to rescue 220 recreational sites that might otherwise have been sold for development; and to set up a new British Academy of Sport. All will be generously funded from National Lottery money, exactly the use for which it was intended.

The most eye-catching element has been the academy, modelled on the one in Australia. Supporters claim that its hot-house atmosphere will concentrate talent, knowhow and motivation. There is a case for caution: Government may prove no better at picking winners in this sphere than in the economic domain. And not all budding Olympians will want to leave home to attend a boarding school.

Moreover, excellence in British sport has often sprung from the most unlikely pockets dotted around the country. From Oxford to Gateshead, Coventry to Haringey, groups of

talented athletes have congregated around one inspiring coach and often managed to fill nearly a whole Olympic team in one discipline. These little beacons of excellence ought to be tended and kept alight.

What they need is often not sparkling new national centres, at the cost of many millions of pounds, but merely the funds to free athletes and coaches from the burden of having to make a living during the day in order to train, half-exhausted, during the evenings and weekends. Carefully targeted bursaries and scholarships to enable budding medal-winners to be full-time sportsmen and women could achieve better returns than huge investment in buildings and equipment.

Meanwhile, children with sporting talent need to be spotted and encouraged. Until recently sport in schools was in desperate decline. The combination of reduced after-school activity by teachers, widespread sales of playing fields by cash-strapped local authorities, and an anti-competitive ethos introduced by political correctness, had taken a substantial toll. There is some evidence that the corner has been turned and yesterday's announcement promises more to come. Closer links between schools and sports clubs, suggested by Mr Major, are critically important. Only if the base of the pyramid is wide enough will any attempt to produce medal-winners achieve its purpose.

Tamil resistance to Colombo rule

From Mr S. Pothalingam

Sir, Tamil dissent — a civilised passive dissent — has been transformed by decades of harsh racist oppression into an effective military machine. The LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) is a natural phenomenon of human history.

In your admiration for the Sri Lankan President, Mrs Kumaratunga (leading article, "Defeat for peace", July 23), you appear to overlook Tamil sensitivities. The hoisting of the Colombo Government's flag in Jaffna last December was a display of "racial supremacy" to humiliate the Tamils; it was not a gesture towards peace and amity.

It would be absurd for anyone to imagine that the Tamils would ever be reconciled to living under military dictatorship in the Jaffna peninsula. Mrs Kumaratunga has prevented the presence of foreign journalists who could inform the world of what is going on in the north and east of the island.

Your concern for peace in Sri Lanka is admirable, but in my view the way to achieve this is for the international community to impose an arms embargo and apply economic, cultural and sporting sanctions against the Colombo Government until it calls off its military onslaught on the Tamil homeland.

Yours faithfully,
S. POTHALINGAM,
Geneva Lodge,
23 St Mary's Avenue, E11,
July 23.

From Mr M. Thiagarajan

Sir, Your leading article states that "Despite its terrorist nature, the LTTE has no difficulty raising funds from Tamil communities abroad; the historical memory of Sinhalese atrocities keeps the money flowing — an estimated £250,000 a month from Britain alone."

But this figure is tiny compared with Sri Lanka's £500 million military budget for 1996, referred to in your leading article, a sum which, in my opinion, would be better spent improving the life of Sri Lankans rather than killing innocent Tamils.

Yours faithfully,
M. THIAGARAJAN,
24 Brook Avenue,
Edgware, Middlesex,
July 23.

British history

From Mr John Parfitt

Sir, Paez Mr Simon Ellis (letter, July 19) and his enthusiasm for modern history, perhaps it would be better if young people learnt how a tiny little island off the coast of Europe which in 1538 had less than half the population of Spain and barely half that of France, had just lost the last of its ancient continental possessions, had been devaluing its currency against the continentals for half a century, had to import Flemings and Germans to run its infant industry and had just narrowly escaped becoming a Spanish satrapy, managed to lay the foundations of a maritime prosperity which has kept us rich and powerful for 400 years.

The parallels with today are interesting, the disregard of them by our present politicians is frightening. The first Queen Elizabeth would have chopped most of their heads off.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
JOHN PARFITT,
St Andrews, New Street,
Painstwick, Gloucestershire,
July 19.

From Mr Donald Francke

Sir, I disagree with Simon Ellis about priorities in the teaching of history. Henry VIII and Oliver Cromwell are far more relevant than Jack and the Beanstalk or Robin Hood. They are two prominent cornerstones upon which the terrible edifice of the present troubles in Ireland are built.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD FRANCKE,
10 Polworth Road, SW16,
July 19.

Asylum seekers

From Mr Chris Furey

Sir, Once again we have a religious leader calling on the Government to look to its responsibilities for society (letter, July 22) other letters, July 15). I am sure that Rabbi Julia Neuberger's parents, as refugees from the Nazis, were welcomed here with love, by people of the Jewish and, I hope, non-Jewish faith. It was their fellow men and women who responded to the plight of such refugees. That is how it should be.

We should be proud that Britain is a haven and long may it continue. But it is its people who should show love and take responsibility personally for the asylum-seekers. Putting the burden on the Government demeans us all. The more effort we put into institutionalising love the more it will continue to be eroded from our society.

Yours sincerely,
CHRIS FUREY,
41 Cadogan Court,
Mulgrave Road, Sutton, Surrey,
July 22.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Why World Service merits reprieve

From Mr Ernest Warburton

Sir, From 1990 to 1995 I was privileged to be Editor of the BBC World Service's English network (letters, June 19; July 5, 17, 19). For most of that time the World Service enjoyed the dynamic and committed leadership of John Tusa as managing director, and for all of it the strong support of Douglas Hurd as Foreign Secretary.

Government gave us more money to make new and better programmes. For the first time ever we were able to achieve more realistic staffing levels in English production departments and to operate News Intake round the clock.

We could afford projects which sent producers and presenters abroad to meet the audience; they returned with a much clearer idea of what the listeners really wanted and a fiercer determination to serve them better. The result was massive increase — getting on for 50 per cent in the size of the audience for the English service.

Times change and different circumstances call for different responses. However, some general principles remain. You only get what you pay for. Every successful organisation requires a high degree of commitment and mutual respect from its leaders and its workforce. To be competitive any product must be the best of its kind, what the customer wants and delivered with the least possible inconvenience to him.

Any successful entrepreneur also knows that all markets are not the same and is careful to meet the special needs of every one of them. That is why Mr Birt is right to retain a production presence in Cardiff, Glasgow and Belfast to cater for the culturally

specific needs of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

However, if the BBC needs producers and reporters in Glasgow to remain competitive and credible in Scotland, it also needs them in Bush House and in the field to be competitive and credible in Ulan Bator and Abidjan, Washington and Brussels. If they really can no longer be afforded, that is a different matter and one Mr Riffkind ought seriously to consider if he wants the BBC World Service to remain the force it has become.

Yours sincerely,
ERNEST WARBURTON,
10a Park Avenue,
St Albans, Hertfordshire,
July 23.

From Mr Rupert Colville

Sir, I first stepped off this small island when I was 25 years old (I am now 36). Within a couple of weeks of arriving in Cairo, I was a World Service addict.

Since then, I have lived in a number of countries — and never found any World Service listener, of any age or nationality, who did not admire its news service, and in some cases depend on it. For an expatriate Briton, frequently embarrassed by his homeland's increasingly parochial outlook on the world, the World Service has been one consistent cause for national pride — in fact recently virtually the only cause for national pride.

The BBC Governors can and should halt this ill-thought-out plan.

Yours faithfully,
RUPERT COLVILLE,
Rue de Rive 32,
1260 Nyon, Switzerland,
July 24.

Media and Maxwells

From Mr Keith E. Oliver

Sir, Your leader of July 20, "Paradox in court", significantly understates the seriousness of the comments about the Maxwell brothers, made in a television quiz show, that prompted the Attorney-General to institute proceedings for contempt against the BBC and Hat Trick Productions.

As the solicitors acting for Mr Kevin Maxwell, we supported the decision by *The Times* to apply for the reporting restriction originally imposed on the judgment of the court to be lifted, on the basis that the advantage of lifting the restriction outweighed any possible disadvantages. It may well be that certain members of the media will finally appreciate the consequences of unrelenting prejudicial coverage, whether item by item or as a whole.

The court described the offending words as "strikingly prejudicial and

going to the heart of the case the jury were to try". The broadcast was but one example of what the trial judge, Lord Justice Phillips, described, in March 1995, as "unrelenting adverse media publicity".

The fact that the jury were apparently able to concentrate on the evidence during the course of the seven-month trial does not absolve all sections of the media from a general responsibility to avoid the contamination to which you refer.

The mere fact that the comments were made in a comedy or satirical programme can never be a defence, as contamination is possible whatever the medium concerned. Certainly, it is not limited to the emotionally charged headlines of the tabloid press.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH OLIVER,
Peters & Peters (solicitors),
2 Harewood Place,
Hanover Square, W1,
July 22.

Olympic crowns

From Dr P. A. Cartledge

Sir, Kyniska, Princess of Sparta (her name means "Puppy"), who won an Olympic crown as a non-driving woman owner in the four-horse chariot-race of 396 BC ("Cash spurred on ancient Olympians", report, July 22) was even more interesting than your report made her out to be.

Although daughter of a (deceased) king, she was also sister of the reigning King Agesilaus, and it was allegedly he who persuaded her to breed chariot horses, on the grounds that a prize-winning stud merely betokened great wealth whereas breeding war-horses — as he did — was the mark of true manly virtue.

Kyniska's feminist response was suitably Spartan but hardly laconic. Not only did she win this "blue ribbon" event in 396, but she won again at the following Olympics of 392. To cap it all she set up at Olympia a lavishly sculptural dedication in bronze depicting her team, driver and (not least) self with an accompanying dedicatory verse epigram, still legible two and a half millennia later, that concluded: "I say I am the only woman in all Greece to have won this crown".

Some puppy.
Yours faithfully,
PAUL CARTLEDGE,
Clare College, Cambridge,
July 22.

British Safety Council

From the Deputy Director General of the British Safety Council

Sir, Your obituary today of this Council's Director General, James Tye, unjustly described him as a one-man pressure group and publicist.

He was, in fact, a man of profound beliefs who did not care who he upset in the cause of saving life and limb. It is not true to say that James ran this council from his house in Chiswick. We have been here at the National Safety Centre in Hammersmith for many years, from where a team of managers continues to run our successful safety programmes.

The best defence against your demolition job is the reaction of Frank Davies, Chairman of the Health and Safety Commission, to James's death: "Nobody gave the health and safety of people at work more publicity or a higher profile than he did".

Yours faithfully,
JIM BRETT,
Deputy Director General,
British Safety Council,
National Safety Centre,
Chancery Road, W6,
July 24.

Tragic lesson of vintage aircrashes

From Mr David A. Horton

Sir, Sunday's tragic vintage aircraft crash, the De Havilland Mosquito at Barton aerodrome (report, July 22), closely followed accidents to the Lockheed P-38 Lightning at Duxford and Bristol Freighter at Enstone (reports, July 15, 19). Recent years have seen Hurricane, Sea Fury, Blenheim, Invader (the list goes on) all destroyed, often with fatal consequences to highly experienced and respected pilots.

I am not suggesting a common cause for these accidents; however, although technically "airworthy" and maintained to extremely high standards, many of these aeroplanes were created under the stress of wartime conditions. Testing and refining them were not as extensive as for today's aircraft and inevitably produced aircraft with certain "quirks". These machines were designed to fulfil a specific role at that time, wars and all.

Operating classic and vintage aircraft is very costly. Income is dependent on air displays where, by flying low, the aircraft can be seen to best advantage. I do not wish to ground vintage aircraft, but I believe that operators should now seriously consider restricting displays to simple manoeuvres only.

The competence of those unfortunate pilots who have sacrificed themselves in giving the paying public delight and nostalgia is undoubted; however, they are in most cases probably used to flying modern state-of-the-art aeroplanes which rarely develop serious faults. When problems arise with machines fifty or more years old, as unfortunately they are liable to do, even the most experienced pilot may not be equipped to deal with them.

Aircraft museums are burgeoning and long may they be supported; but, please, let us give further thought to how these few precious aircraft are displayed.

Yours hopefully,
D. A. HORTON,
Senior Lecturer, Aviation Studies,
London Guildhall University,
26 The Crescent,
Slough, Berkshire,
July 23.

It could be them

From Mr Edward Frewin

Sir, According to your report today (later editions), "Camelot delays bonus payments to discourage its directors from leaving".

What appalling conditions must the directors be working under that sanctions of this magnitude are required to prevent a mass exodus of the board?

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD FREWIN,
Olden Oak, 103 Reading Road,
Woodley, Reading, Berkshire,
July 16.

Have no fear

From Mr Ian Chapman

Sir, Mr Roger Cookson asks (letter, July 23) if this dentist is alone in having a Bible in his waiting room. Surely, Mr Cookson answers his own question: a man with a Bible in his waiting room can never be alone.

Perhaps the question should be: "At which verse should the Book be left open?" Why, Exodus xxi. 24. of course ("Eye for eye, tooth for tooth...").

Yours faithfully,
IAN R. CHAPMAN,
39 Greenhayes Avenue,
Banstead, Surrey,
July 23.

From Mr Roger Cooper

Sir, Mr Cookson's dentist obviously wants him to take comfort from the many passages in the Bible that are relevant to his profession. For example "And I will take his blood out of his mouth, and his abominations from between his teeth" (Zechariah ix. 7). Does he clean his teeth properly, or use his dental floss regularly?

Yours faithfully,
ROGER COOPER,
2 Wolsey Road,
Moor Park, Northwood, Middlesex,
July 23.

From Mr Tony Douglass

Sir, I once saw a framed text over the oral hygienist's door, from Amos iv. 6: "... and I also have given you cleanness of teeth...".

Yours, gnashing but not waiting,
TONY DOUGLASS,
Knipp Cottage, Chiddingfold, Surrey,
July 23.

From Ms Elizabeth Mawer

Sir, My dentist goes one better. He has a copy of the Koran too.

Yours prayerfully,
ELIZABETH MAWER,
68 High Street,
Burnham on Crouch, Essex,
July 23.

From the Reverend

Canon R. Anne Horton

Sir, What, I wonder does Mr Cookson dread? My dentists not only have a Bible in their waiting room, but also, on occasion, a priest too.

Yours faithfully,
R. A. HORTON,
The Rectory,
157 Main Street, Swithland,
Loughborough, Leicestershire,
July 23.

Teletext launches air ticket service

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

AIRLINE passengers can now bypass travel agents and book long-haul seats through their television sets under a new "interactive" booking operation unveiled this week. Detailed plans are being drawn up to extend the system to short-haul services, charter flights and package holidays.

Up to 25 million people, who have televisions equipped with Teletext, can obtain as much information about long-haul scheduled flights as most high-street travel agents, and once they have registered can automatically book seats by pressing buttons on their telephone.

Teletext, which displays advertisements on independent television networks and has an 18 per cent share of the cut-price holiday market, has signed a deal with the long-haul booking agency, Airline Network, to create "Take-Off" which, it is claimed, is the first interactive flight-booking service available anywhere in the world to the public.

Although Airline Network only offers long-distance flights, selling almost 90,000 tickets a year, Teletext is confident that short-haul services and package holidays will also be available soon through the small screen.

The key to the operation is the use of the premium-line telephone service, the profits from which will go to Teletext to help to develop the system further. Customers who join the Airline Network loyalty scheme will be given a code that can be used to tap requests into a telephone and receive details on the screen to which they can respond.

Most bookings are expected

to be made during the off-peak times when the premium charge is 39p per minute compared with 49p at peak times. The average length of time needed for information on the 118 airlines, whose schedules and prices will then be displayed and a booking made, is about seven minutes.

Airline Network will, however, refund a flat rate of £4 to anyone who makes a booking through the system. Their profits are made from buying tickets in bulk at a very low rate from scheduled airlines, then selling them at a profit to passengers. Confirmation of the booking is sent by post within 24 hours and tickets between ten and 14 days before departure.

John Swindell, managing director of Airline Network, said last night: "Customers have at their fingertips a complete choice of airlines and discounted airfares to hundreds of worldwide destinations. This is a massive leap forward in travel marketing."

Teletext says that more than five million viewers "access" the travel and holiday pages each week. A spokeswoman said: "This is very much the first step for us. We expect to be able to expand once we have established how the new service is developing."

Within days of being active, the system was being used by 130 people a day. David Robinson, Airline Network's general manager, says: "This is a wonderful start and as people begin to realise that they can find what they want from their screen rather than relying on what advisers want to show them, we are sure that it will expand rapidly."



Iceland offers clean air, impressive scenery and unique sights such as the hot springs at Arnarsysla, Kerlingarfjoll

Iceland comes in from the cold

By DAVID CHURCHILL

ICELAND has emerged as the "hottest" new short-break destination this summer with the number of British tourists in June up by 51 per cent on the same month last year. In the first six months of the year the running total was some 32 per cent ahead.

Although the numbers involved are not large — just under 9,000 Britons visited Iceland in the first half of this year — Britain is still the second largest inbound source of tourism for Iceland, after Germany.

But the sharp jump in numbers this year has taken

Iceland's fledgling tourist industry by surprise, since there has been no heavy marketing or promotional campaign.

"I think that Iceland has been 'discovered' by couples in their 30s and 40s who are looking not only for a new destination but also one which has a strong, fresh environmental image," says Johanna Larusdottir, marketing co-ordinator for Icelandair, which operates the main scheduled services from the UK to Iceland. "We have the landscape, clear air and good

facilities that people want." Iceland's climate is also not as harsh as research shows many people believe, with weather similar to Scotland and warm air from the Gulf Stream ensuring it never gets really cold. In June this year the weather was better than in the UK.

Some 32 UK tour operators now feature holidays to Iceland, including AT Mayes Citybreaks, Cresta Holidays, Explore Worldwide, Page & Moy and Time Off. Most popular are activity breaks

which use the capital Reykjavik as a base, before heading off for Jeep safaris to visit the volcanoes, waterfalls, hot springs and geysers. Horse riding and fishing tours are also popular. One problem is the shortage of top class accommodation during the busy summer months, when university halls of residence often have to be used.

Icelandair has short breaks including return flights, accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis, and transfers starting from £233. Iceland Tourist Board: 0171-388 7550. Icelandair: 0171-388 5599.

French boost for bomb-hit Corsica

By STEVE KEENAN

THE FRENCH Tourist Office is putting extra money into promoting Corsica in Britain this summer in the face of a series of setbacks for the Mediterranean island.

Following a slump in demand from the UK, more money is being spent on promoting Corsica than on any other French region, with the island's tourism authorities and the FTO spending an estimated £250,000.

The only flights to Corsica are Sunday charters, and this summer there are just 24,186 seats available, compared to 29,440 last year. But bookings are still running 20 per cent down, slightly less than mainland France.

Howard Jones, managing director of market leader Holiday Options, said: "People will pay a premium for Corsica above Greece or Portugal, but not much."

"The top-end holidays and self-catering are holding up — in August you can't get a four-star — but where there is space in two or three-star hotels."

The strength of the French franc is an inhibiting factor. But it has had a worse effect on Corsica's biggest foreign market, the Italians.

A terrorist bombing in Bastia on July 1, coupled with air and ferry problems from the mainland, have also seen a fall in demand from the domestic French market.

As the French school holidays started last week, some regions of the island were reporting business down by 60 per cent. Hoteliers also reduced prices in weeks previously considered peak season.

"We thought it would be better this year but after the bombing we didn't have any bookings. We will be full only between August 5-20," said Meireille Orsoni of the Casa Vecchia Hotel in Calvi.

Tour operators including Holiday Options and Cresta have cut prices for holidays outside mid-August. Cresta is offering holidays from £54 and Holiday Options has cut prices by £50.

Don't let terrorism ruin your holiday

WHAT an appalling month this is turning out to be for the travel business. From the horrific destruction of TWA flight 800 and the Eta bombs in Spanish holiday resorts it would appear that tourism and terror are once more intertwined.

With many countries depending on tourism for their very survival and dozens of others — including Britain — relying on the industry to improve their standard of living, it is not surprising that the events of the past few weeks have sent a wave of panic through many government tourist departments around the world.

If international terrorists want to get attention, they know that they have only to attack tourists. They are the perfect "soft" target and yet their economic benefit is enormous. Keep visitors away from a particular destination or resort and, so runs the twisted mind of international terror, the authorities will yield to their demands.

How many air passengers gripped their seats just a little more tightly this week, remembering the explosion which killed all on board the TWA jet? And how many nervous passengers who would otherwise have flown, however reluctantly, have now called off their planned journey for fear of terrorism? Not that it is certain that the



TWA jet was brought down by a bomb. Other theories are still being studied, including the unlikely, but nonetheless faint, possibility that the jet was struck by a meteorite.

Aircraft maker Boeing, the world's airlines, and countless millions of air travellers are hoping that mechanical failure does not eventually prove to have been the cause of the 25-year-old jet crashing. With so many old jumbo jets still flying such a finding would surely bring much of the world's travel industry to its knees.

Luckily stoicism appears to have prevented all but a handful of people from abandoning their foreign travel plans this summer. The airports are still packed and there is hardly a seat to be had on charter flights. Spain's hotels are full and the world's travellers, especially Americans, seem determined to beat a path to London and the rest of Britain this year.

We could, of course, always stay at home. There have been some long spells of fine summer weather and with the rain of the last couple of days the British countryside is looking better than ever.

THE SUCCESS or failure of travel-related businesses is all about confidence, it has often been said. Yet rarely can there have been such a nerve-racking start to a summer season, both at home and abroad.

This has included exasperating Tube strikes, 20-mile traffic jams, the collapse of a travel company and growing fears about the safety of foreign-registered jet aircraft. My advice is to remember that all the terrible events I have mentioned make news only because they are unusual and do not happen every day. Get on that plane with confidence, lie contently on that beach — and forget your worries and the world's madness for just a little while.

Barbies out, culture in as Australia goes for subtlety

By TONY DAVE

THE IMAGE of Australia portrayed by Paul Hogan, the *Crocodile Dundee* star, with his "barbies on the beach", is being buried finally with the announcement this week that the Australian Tourist Commission has awarded a worldwide account to an advertising agency with a more subtle approach.

The £20 million contract has been won by DMB&B, the New York-based agency whose London office created the television commercial being shown currently in Britain with the slogan "the sooner you go, the longer the memories".

Richard Barker, the agency's European creative director, says: "The campaign is based on the unforgettability of a visit to Australia; that the experience lasts much longer than a suntan."

"In making the presentations to win the worldwide account, we identified as the foundation stones of our campaign the refreshment of mind, body and spirit and the lasting experience which come from a visit to Australia."

Andrew Richards, the tour-

ist commission's European regional director, says: "The Paul Hogan ads were marvelous in getting more recognition for Australia but we now want to present a more broad-based and multicultural image of the country."

The decision to award the worldwide account to one agency follows the launch earlier this year of "Brand Australia", designed to remind potential tourists of the

country's wide-open spaces and unique attractions, including the Great Barrier Reef.

Promotions have moved increasingly away from high-lighting sunshine and beaches, with 1996 being earmarked as the year to "experience the festivals of Oz" and the Northern Territories announcing a multimillion pound scheme to open up the Outback.



Northern Territories most famous landmark, Ayers Rock

BA and American plan US 'shuttle'

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

AN HOURLY transatlantic "shuttle" service between London and two key American cities could be operating from next April.

Under plans being scrutinised by officials on both sides of the Atlantic, British Airways and American Airlines will adjust the timings of their services from Heathrow to New York and Chicago to offer passengers from Europe an hourly service to two of America's most important business destinations.

The aim is to attract thousands of high-spending travellers from outside Britain who fill an increasing number of seats on flights from Heathrow. But the plan provoked an immediate outcry from Virgin Atlantic, which is seeking to halt the "merger".

"It is quite ridiculous when two airlines who control all the peak time slots for transatlantic travel from the UK can operate a service like this when new operators cannot get slots," said a Virgin Atlantic spokesman. "This illustrates why this merger is not in the consumer's interests."

Under the scheme, BA and AA flights, which now take off at about the same time, would be spread throughout the day instead. Passengers could fly to Heathrow in the certain knowledge of a connecting flight with BA or AA to

America. Bookings would be made as if the two were a single airline and they would then share the profits.

A typical BA flight from Heathrow to New York (JFK), for example, now has only 47 per cent of its seats filled by passengers originating in London, with the rest coming from as far afield as Scandinavia, Africa or India.

From Gatwick the skew is even more marked with just over one in five seats on a typical flight to Dallas/Fort Worth being filled by passengers starting their journey in London.

Fifteen per cent of seats sold on BA flight 193 to Dallas on July 12, for example, were filled by passengers starting their journey in Germany, 11 per cent from Switzerland, Austria and Eastern Europe and 7 per cent from Britain and Eire. Connecting passengers can make the difference between profit and loss on most transatlantic services, according to BA.

Virgin's Richard Branson told the House of Commons Transport Committee that the "merger" would "simply kill competition," and inevitably lead to higher fares. BA's chairman, Sir Colin Marshall, on the other hand, insisted that standards would go up and fares would come down.

Heritage sites gain from TV exposure

BRITISH tourists are increasingly interested in architectural, religious, maritime and cultural history, according to the English Tourist Board — thanks in part to the television series *Pride and Prejudice*, *Harvey Elliott writes*.

Last year an estimated 19.5 million people visited cathedrals and churches in England, 15.4 million visited private historic properties, 12 million went to parish churches, 9.6 million to government properties, 7.6 million to National Trust properties and 5.6 million to those owned by local authorities, says the ETB in its latest survey of English Heritage.

Lyme Park in Cheshire, which was used to represent Mr Darcy's house, Pemberley, in the TV adaptation of Jane Austen's classic novel, had a huge 178 per cent increase in visitors last year. The picturesque property, in Disley, recorded 91,437 admissions compared with 32,852 in 1994.

Overall there was an in-

crease of 4 per cent in the number of visitors to historic properties last year — greater than in any year since 1987. The £212 million spent was 6 per cent more than in 1994.

Fifty eight historic properties in England each attracted more than 200,000 visitors during 1995: 31 charged admission and 27 were free. The Tower of London attracted by far the highest number of paid admissions, up 5 per cent to 2.5 million. Westminster Abbey was the most popular free venue with 2.2 million visitors.

The sharpest increase in paying visitors was to old warships. HMS Warrior, Plymouth, attracted 49 per cent more than in the previous year, while the Mary Rose in Portsmouth saw a 20 per cent increase.

The two biggest losers were both academic centres. Christ Church College, Oxford, had 13 per cent fewer visitors during 1995 and King's College Chapel, Cambridge, was 9 per cent down on 1994.

LEAGUE OF HISTORIC ATTRACTIONS

Location	Visitors
1. Tower of London	2,535,880
2. St Paul's Cathedral, London	2,220,000
3. Windsor Castle, Berks	1,212,000
4. Roman Baths and Pump Room, Bath	872,000
5. Warwick Castle	803,000
6. Stonehenge, Wilt	707,000
7. Shakespeare's Birthplace, Stratford upon Avon	684,000
8. Hampton Court Palace, London	576,171
9. Leeds Castle, Kent	436,000
10. Blenheim Palace, Woodstock, Oxon	436,000

* Including about 720,000 free admissions

TRAVEL ON SATURDAY

Travel the world again in Weekend on Saturday

Gap-year travel — William Gilroy in Tanzania, plus how to plan

Garlic festival in France Switzerland's Olympic Museum

Cruising on the QE2 Wales and Cornwall Jill Crawshaw's Travel Tips

Insider's Paris

From Opera to Outback, we cover ALL TRAVEL PORTFOLIO. Brochure and advice from the bespoke experts, call 01224 762255

A LUXURY WEEK ON THE NILE

A cruise along the Nile on a deluxe vessel, not too large, and with like-minded travellers, has got to be one of the better ways of escaping the uncertain British weather. This cruising arrangement represents extraordinary value since the tariff includes all meals, transfers, guides and excursions. If you are looking for a true escape with that magical combination of culture and relaxation, then this is surely an opportunity that should not be missed.

THE MS GLORY

The MS GLORY is one of the newest vessels on the Nile and has been built to Lloyd's specifications. She offers 55 double passenger cabins, each with ensuite facilities, colour television, radio and telephone. The cabins are all conveniently located away from the public areas of the boat and are equipped with individual climate controls. The MS GLORY houses a restaurant, lounge area, dance floor, a large swimming pool and two bars.

ITINERARY IN BRIEF

Fly from Gatwick to Aswan and join the MS GLORY for the 7-night cruise. Cruise to Edfu to see its temple, and on to Esna for the Temple of Khnum, then on to Luxor, visit the West Bank, the Valley

Cruise between Aswan and Luxor on board the magnificent MS GLORY, one of the finest vessels on the Nile

7 nights from £530.00

of the Kings, Luxor Temple and the Great Temple of Karnak. Cruise to from Onbo returning to Aswan with a full sightseeing programme (optional excursion by coach to Abu Simbel £75). Return by air to Gatwick.

DEPARTURE DATES & PRICES

Mondays — per person in twin 1996 — August 26. £530

Sep 2, 9, 16, 23, 30. £550
Oct 7, 14, 21, 28. £535
Nov 4, 11, 18, 25. £545 — Dec 2, 9. £500
Dec 16. £545 — Dec 23, 30. £495

1997 — Jan 6, 13. £555 — Jan 20, 27. £555
Feb 3, 10, 17, 24. £555
Mar 3, 10, 17. £555 — Mar 24. £550
Mar 31. £555 — Apr 7, 14, 21, 28. £555

Supplements — per person
Single cabin £225
Upper decks £125 — Abu Simbel £75

Prices include: air travel, transfers, overnight on the MS GLORY, full board, excursion programme, local representative, full insurance, travel insurance, support buses, visas, tips, etc. All prices are subject to change. All bookings are accepted subject to our Conditions of Booking.

0171-6161000

VOYAGES JULES VERNE

21 Dorset Square, London NW1 6GG

Travel Professionals Ltd. 0171-6161000, 0171-6161001

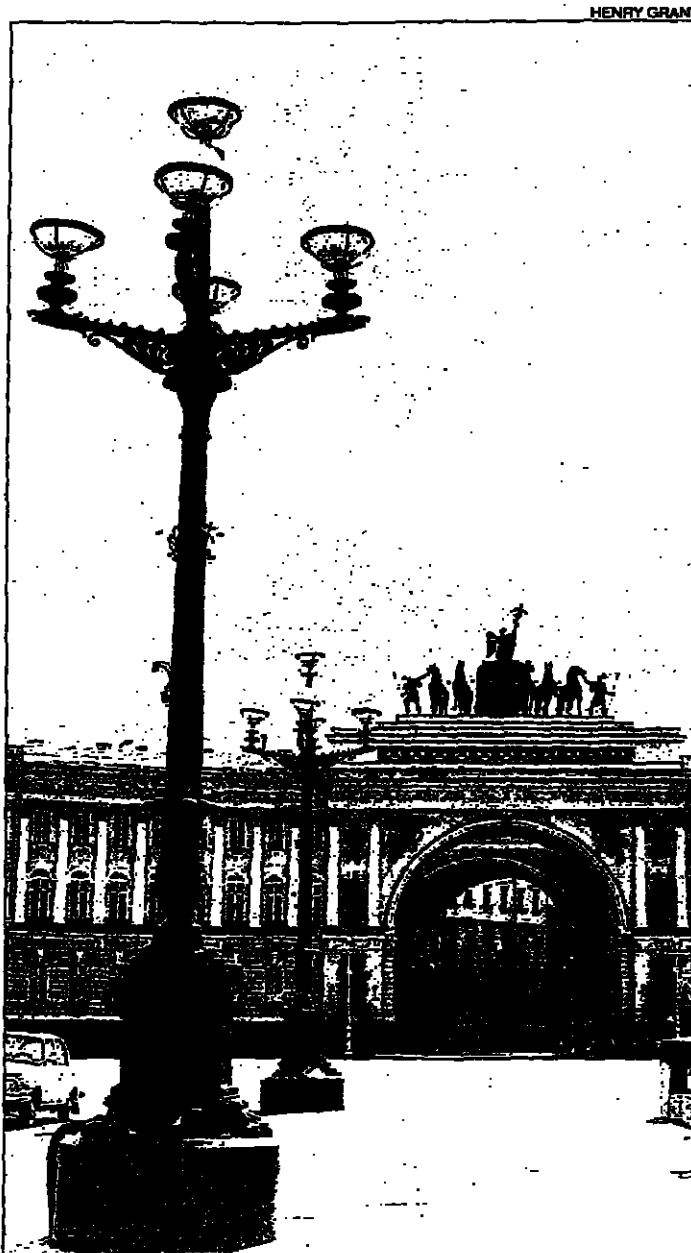
Our offices are open for telephone bookings weekdays 9am to 6pm and weekends 10am to 5pm. For personal calls, our office hours are 10am to 5pm weekdays only.

Call 0990 29 29 29 anytime

HOLIDAYS

■ **WIGHTLINK** Ferries is offering a day-return trip to the Isle of Wight for £33.50 for a car and four passengers, sailing after 9.25am on weekdays. A five-day ticket costs £50 for any sailing, except Saturdays during July and August. The routes are Portsmouth-Fishbourne or Lymington-Yarmouth. Details: 0181-324 4000.

■ **ST PETERSBURG** for a week for £500, with flight from Heathrow on September 7, half-board accommodation and one day sightseeing, is on offer from Pan Tours. Details: 0171-821 7000.



See the beauty of St Petersburg, including the Triumphal Arch.

HOTELS

■ **OAKLEY** Court, just ten minutes away from the new Legoland Theme Park at Windsor, has a summer-holiday rate until the end of August of £55 per person per night for bed and breakfast, with children under 16 staying free in their parents' room. Details: 01753 609988.

FLIGHTS

■ **BRITISH AIRWAYS** has launched a saver fare, between £114 and £149, for flights linking Bristol and Plymouth with Cork. Details: 0345 222111.

■ **QUEST WORLDWIDE** is offering flights to Delhi with Swissair for £369 return. Details: 0181-547 3322

CHECK-IN

FAX:0171 481 9313

USA Air Vacations USA

NEW YORK £190 WASHINGTON £220 FLORIDA £240 CALIFORNIA £280 BOSTON £220

OVER 200 DIFFERENT USA DESTINATIONS, FLYDRIVE, SPECIAL WEEKEND BREAKS, BUSINESS AND FIRST CLASS FLIGHTS. CALL FOR DETAILS MONDAY TO SATURDAY ON:

0171-828 1137

Prices are seasonal. Based on low season.

IATA **ATA**

**TRAVEL
INSURANCE**
"FROM THE SPECIALISTS"

**LOOKING FOR THE
LOWEST
PREMIUMS AND
QUALITY COVER?**

**CALL NOW ON
0500 787838**

 **CLUB
DIRECT**

YOUR SATISFACTION IS OUR POLICY

**American
FlightSavers**

NEW YORK	\$189	LOS ANGELES	\$279
CHICAGO	\$209	PHOENIX	\$315
SEATTLE	\$229	PORTLAND	\$335
ALBUQUERQUE	\$235	MEMPHIS	\$285
PHOENIX	\$249	INDIANAPOLIS	\$269
PORTLAND	\$259	MINNEAPOLIS	\$299
ALBUQUERQUE	\$269	ST. LOUIS	\$345

OVER 200 DESTINATIONS IN USA

CALL THE TRAVEL EXPERTS

TEL: 0171 434 3424
 SUBJECT TO AIRPORT TAXES. FARES 0171 433 1206



Budweiser
BUDWEISER

CANADA from \$147
CYPRUS from \$159
FRANCE from \$189
GREECE from \$177
ITALY from \$219
SPAIN from \$115
USA from \$ 79

WORLDWIDE WEEKEND SPECIALS FROM \$45

All these and many more
OPEN TODAY
CALL 01923 850085

VICEROY TRAVEL

FARES FROM

ATHENS.....\$95	ORLANDO...\$78
NEW YORK \$179	MALAGA....\$65
CANARIES...\$59	NALTA.....\$55
CAIRO.....\$179	NICE.....\$100
SYDNEY...\$459	EURO CITIES \$150
FARO.....\$99	GERONA....\$55
GDA.....\$299	Tel Aviv...\$150

WORLD FARES AVAILABLE
DISCOUNTED CAR HIRE/INSURANCE

01476 593 123

AGENTS FOR ALL AIRLINES
AGENTS FOR ALL AIRLINES

FLIGHTSEATS



01476 574111

Now booking **Summer 95**

Prices from:-

Athens	£ 89	Malaga	£ 99
Palma	£ 99	Paris	£ 99
Genoa	£ 79	Seville	£ 99
Dublin	£ 89	Amsterdam	£ 109
Madrid	£ 135	Osaka	£ 189
Turkey	£ 39		
Foto	£ 39		
Cyprus	£ 129		

ALL European & worldwide flights available

Independent Car Hire Available

Best Agents for ATOL
See ARTS 2702

Travel City
direct
ORLANDO
BARGAIN FLYDRIVES
JULY & AUGUST
fr.
£199
01792 464646

TRAILFINDERS 

THE TRAVEL EXPERTS

More than just low cost flights worldwide

WITH UP TO 65% DISCOUNT ON HOTELS & CAR HIRE

Call Trailfinders for the complete tailor-made travel service

LONDON Longhaul 0171-938 3366
Transatlantic & European: 0171-937 5400
First & Business Class: 0171-938 2444

BIRMINGHAM Worldwide: 0121-236 1234

BRISTOL Worldwide: 0117-929 9000

GLASGOW Worldwide: 0141-353 2224

MANCHESTER Worldwide: 0161-839 6969

First & Business Class: 0161-839 3434

 **ATA**
 **ABERCROMBIE & KENT**
 **CREST**
 **HOLLAND AMERICA**

CAPITAL FLIGHTS			
New York	189	Melaga	73
Florida	180	Fino	69
Canada	179	Alcantara	65
Chapman	200	Lanzetta	65
Tel Aviv	101	Calz	109
Australia	449	July	148
Bangkok	343	Turkey	88

Short air hire runs available
 Hotel recommendations available
 Insurance cover also available
 Retail agent for AYDL holders

0171 209 4000
 0171 209 4000

STA TRAVEL

far out!

BUT WITH OVER 120 BRANCHES WORLDWIDE
WE'RE NEVER FAR AWAY

	£48	Conditions apply on these airfares and non-refundable, quality seats, scheduled flights and excl. tax.	£472	£472
Paris	New York	Bangkok	Johannesburg	
Amsterdam	Washington	Jakarta	Bogota	
Athens	Los Angeles	Singapore	Rio de Janeiro	
Prague	Toronto	Beijing	Sydney	

ROUND THE WORLD: FROM £550

*** 10% OFF INSURANCE IN JULY ***

EUROPE: 0171 361 6161, WORLDWIDE: 0171 361 6262, 0161 834 0668 (Manchester)
 ACCOMMODATION - CAR HIRE - INSURANCE AND OVERLAND TOURS: 0171 361 6160
 117 Bruton Road HW1, 86 Old Brompton Rd SW7, 11 Cold St SW1, London.

STA TRAVEL INFORMATION REQUEST LINE WITH US 24 HRS



LONDON, MANCHESTER, GLASGOW, LEEDS, OXFORD, CAMBRIDGE, BRISTOL, BRIGHTON ... STA TRAVEL

MAJOR USA

Offers great value on low cost flights, car hire, and accommodation at all destinations in the USA, with the leading scheduled airlines.



New York
Chicago
Boston
Dallas



Plus

"SKIP THE YOUNG" packages £6299.

Call now for your winter brochure.

RESERVATIONS

0171 485 7017

**CHEAPEST PRICES
WORLDWIDE**

SYDNEY	E492
NEW YORK	E182
SEATTLE	E282
KUALA LUMPUR	E382
TOKYO	E465
HONG KONG	E425
INDIA	E320
KATHMANDU	E382
SINGAPORE	E392
BANGKOK	E340
JOHANNESBURG	E392
TEL AVIV	E180

[illegible]

SUNDIAL TRAVEL INC.

Bargain late flights.

Alicante	£109	Dalman	£69
Barcelona	£16	Lisbon	£39
Faro	£139	Madrid	£49
Malaga	£149	Palma	£129
Verona	£129	Verice	£129

*Special flights available to
Retail Agents for ATOL holders.*

Holiday car hire specialists

Alicante	Malaga
Canaries	Portugal

just one call books it all

01276-686808

Airways Travel Ltd.					
Almohadi	£209	India	£209	Swazili	£209
Amsterdam	£59	Dubai	£209	Uganda	£635
Antwerp	£129	Frankfurt	£169	Los Angeles	£325
Bangkok	£215	Geneva	£209	Mumbai	£375
Bombay	£209	Hong Kong	£209	San Francisco	£325
Brussels	£75	Kuala Lumpur	£225	Singapore	£209
Cairo	£209	London	£169	Tokyo	£179
Chicago	£315	Malaga	£169	Yokohama	£325
Columbo	£345	Moscow	£279		
Dur & Salomon	£249	Perth	£279		
SPECIAL		AMMAN		£279	
Tel: 0171 434 3000					

U S A **SWIFT TRAVEL**

ORLANDO	FL. \$289
NEW YORK	\$325
WASHINGTON	\$322
MIAMI	\$369
TAMPA	\$369
L. ANGELES	\$389

★ 100% MORE DESTINATIONS
★ BIG SAVINGS ON
SUN & FIRST CLASS

Subject to taxes & seasonal variations

FOR MORE DETAILS CALL
0181 506 2222

OPEN 7 DAYS

UNITED AIRCRAFT

RENDZVOUS
IN PARIS
C120pp incl.
2nts accom.
RETURN TRAVEL
ON ESTERNAIR,
BREAKFAST
& TAXES

BORDEAUX €109 AMST'DAM 569
TOULOUSE 109 JO'NBURG 489
MANY OTHER DESTS. AVAIL.

01171 930 5153



CAPE TOWN	2534
KUWAIT	493
NAIROBI	360
HONG KONG	410
SINGAPORE	385
DUBAI	239
NEW YORK	189
HOUSTON	410
DALLAS	460

0171 408 1535

Flightfile

0171 323 1515 0171 323 4203
 Europe Worldwide
 Amsterdam 89 Geneva 82 Toronto 199
 Madrid 79 Venice 139 Warsaw 349
 Athens 145 Copenhagen 125 New York 289
 Stockholm 196 Barcelona 111 London 303
 Oslo 109 Paris 109 LA 329
 Munich 138 Prague 154 Bangkok 335
 Rome 139 Nice 99 Bombay/Delhi 299
 OFFER MAIL - Fri 9-4 Sat 10-3 - 49 International Continental Road London W1

**USA
HOTELS**

PERSEUS TRAVEL, the
specialists to America for the
independent traveller, offer a wide
choice of selected hotels (starred to
5 dishes) at highly competitive
prices, with or without flight
bookings. Multi-centre options.
Call us for advice, quotations and
specially confirmed.

Hotels galore with

**Perseus
TRAVEL**

01895 639900

TEL: 0990 1574, 0774 787

FLIGHT CENTRE

**WORLDWIDE
DISCOUNT
FLIGHTS**

ACCESS VISA WELCOME
DISCOUNTED INSURANCE
ATOL 3712
0181 669 8607

JUST THE TICKET
No.1 to OZ, NZ
and USA
Singapore, air fares, hotels
All worldwide destinations return prices

	From	Adult Price
SYDNEY	0-99	\$199
AUCKLAND	0-99	\$243
NEW YORK	1-30	\$172
LA	1-30	\$172
MELB	1-30	\$199
DANGKOK	1-143	\$179
SINGAPORE	1-143	\$179
HONG KONG	1-143	\$179
HO CHI MINH	1-270	\$135
CAMBODIAN	1-300	\$139
PHILIPPINES	1-300	\$139
CANADA	1-315	\$139
USA	1-315	\$139
ABU DUBAI	0-85	\$9
RUSSIA	0-75	\$130
THAILAND	0-75	\$130
INDIA	0-70	\$9
FAHO	0-70	\$110
PALMA	0-75	\$130
ITALY	0-65	\$9

0171 734 0482

OPEN 7 DAYS

PERISHABLES RUN AGO: ALLEN KIRK

MOVEMENT GOES TO ALL DESTINATIONS

JETLINE

SPAIN	\$59	USA	\$169
PORTUGAL	\$59	CANADA	\$199
CARIBBEAN	\$69	CARIBBEAN	\$199
MALTA	\$69	MED. EAST	\$299
GREECE	\$69	INDIA	\$279
CYPRUS	\$79	PAC. EAST	\$299
ISRAEL	\$135	AUSTRALIA	\$699

OPEN 7 DAYS

CALL NOW FOR WINNER PRIZES

971 360 1111



FLY WITH JUMBO

Flexible & economical flights
worldwide return fares from London

Dubai Rtn £250

Cairo	£280	Barcelona	£260
Athens	£210	Amsterdam	£260
Geneva	£210	Birmingham	£260
Paris	£240	New York	£260
Porto	£240	Hong Kong	£260
Seap	£240	Shanghai	£260
Shanghai	£250	Tokyo	£260
Lisbon	£250	Beijing	£260
Kuala Lumpur	£250	Taiwan	£260

Last published Package Holidays and Charter Flights Worldwide
 Fully bonded IATA, AZIA & ATOL. Agents AZIA No 1/288 ATOL 7208.
 AZIA Approved Agent For details please contact

JUMBO TRAVEL LTD.

95 Princes Street, London W1P 1BT

Tel: 0171 293 0600 or 0171 293 0601 Fax: 0171 734 6361



1774

[illegible]

USA
CANADA
SUPER VALUE HOLIDAYS
★ Self Drive Tours ★ Hints ★ Motorhomes ★
MICROMOVIES WINTER SPECIAL
3 WEEKS FOR THE PRICE OF 1
★ Edinburgh Holidays ★ Maple & Car Rental ★
ASTORIA V11356 ATL 3842

CALL STATESAVERS FIRST
01932 829233

benz

NEW YORK £199
HONG KONG £410

AMSTERDAM	£69	JOBURG	£399
BARBADOS	£399	LANGKES	£399
DUBAI	£249	MADRID	£399
DELHI	£309	MOSCOW	£349
FRANKFURT	£399	Nairobi	£399
KANGKOK	£319	ORLANDO	£399
JACKIEA	£399	MANILA	£449

LOW SEASON FARES

0171 439 4181

0171 734 0482

CRYSTAL

ENT 1962 TRAVEL

AMSTERDAM	0429	NEW YORK	219
BANGKOK	2415	GOA	229
KLIMPAH	2379	LAGOS	239
SHING RING	2390	JOBURG	239
TUNIS	0450	AUSTRALIA	252
NO. 1. PARO	2399	ACQUARD	259

FREE

WEEKEND BREAK

WHEN YOU BOOK WITH CRYSTAL

JUST PAY FOR BREAKFAST & DINNER

0171 830 0600

CRISTAL TRAVEL

100, NEWCASTLE ROAD

NEWCASTLE

ON YOUR SIDE

[illegible]

JUST 4 AMERICA

For the widest choice of escorted coach and self-drive tours, motorhomes, Florida, Bahamas and Canadian Holidays call Just America. Specialise in tailor-made quality holidays to North America.

New England People Tours We have a limited number of coach and self-drive holidays remaining for the popular Autumn Season in beautiful New England.

Sid Canada Bariff,
Lake Louise, Jasper, Whistler
Call now for details.

HUGE SAVINGS
We sell coach tickets at special offers in our 1980 brochure call

01730 266588

OUR US & CAN PRICES INCLUDE:
TRAVEL & CASH
8-10 P
INSURANCE

SALE UP TO £200

CL

[illegible]

